



THE INDEPENDENT

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NEW SPORT SECTION

12 PAGES OF THE BEST OF THE WEEKEND'S ACTION

PLUS IN THE REVIEW BILL BRYSON, DEBORAH ROSS, DONALD MACINTYRE, JAN MORRIS

SPORT

Lawrence inquiry to criticise Condon. So now will he go?

BY KATHY MARKS

SIR PAUL CONDON, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, is personally criticised in the report of the Stephen Lawrence inquiry, which will be handed to Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, today.

Scotland Yard sources say that Sir Paul, 51, who has pledged to resign if he is personally criticised, was forewarned in a letter last month from Sir William Macpherson of Cluny, the inquiry chairman.

The Commissioner had hoped to escape censure in the report, which attacks 23 other officers for their role in the failed murder investigation. But he has now been told that, as far as Sir William is concerned, the buck stops with him as head of the organisation.

He is expected to be condemned principally for reassuring Stephen's parents, Neville and Doreen, that the investigation was being properly conducted, without taking steps to establish whether that was in fact the case.

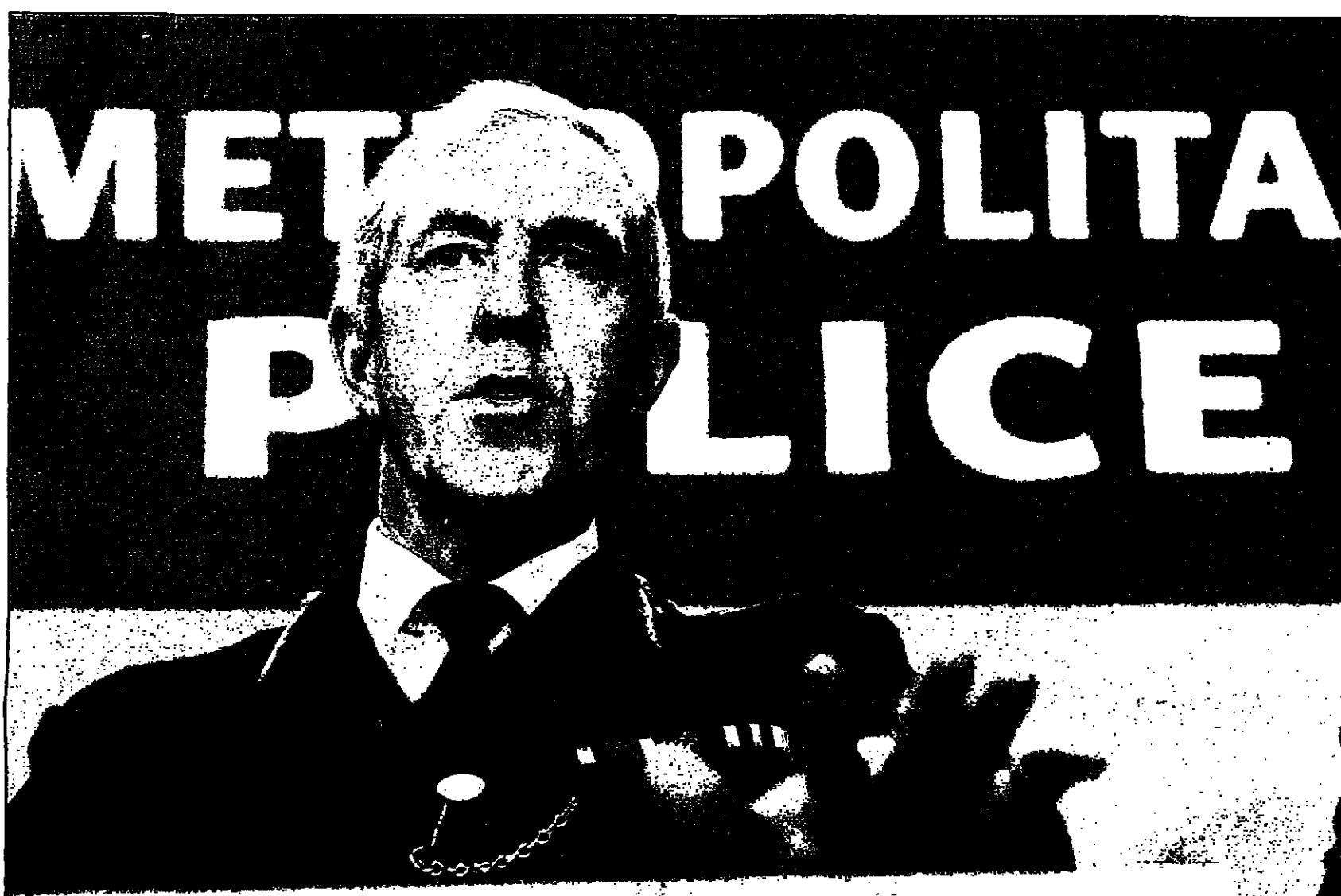
The 23 other police officers facing criticism - more than one-third of those who gave evidence to the public inquiry - are named for the first time today by *The Independent*.

The inquiry report, which is to be published next week, will spark renewed calls for Sir Paul to resign. But if he is true to his word, he will go of his own accord.

Last October, he told *The Independent* that he would step down if criticised. He has reiterated that promise several times since, telling an interviewer as recently as last week: "If I felt that anyone was saying that I had personally acted badly or dishonourably, then I wouldn't hesitate to go."

At the same time, though, he has been increasingly bullish of late, expressing his determination to remain in his job until his seven-year term expires next January.

The criticism will please Sir Paul's enemies in the Home Office, who believe that the Metropolitan Police needs a new figurehead untarnished by the public relations disaster of the



Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, who is personally criticised in the report of the Stephen Lawrence inquiry Philip Meech

Lawrence case. Others believe that Sir Paul, despite everything, is best equipped to preside over the radical reforms that are expected to flow from the recommendations in Sir William's report.

As Commissioner of a force of 26,000 officers, he would normally have been able to argue that he could not possibly have an intimate knowledge of every criminal case and could not therefore be held responsible for success or failure.

But the Lawrence murder was different. In late 1993, many months after Stephen was stabbed to death in south Lon-

don, Sir Paul told the family via a letter to their solicitor that he had taken "a close personal interest in this case from the start". He assured the Lawrences that everything possible had been done to catch their son's racist killers, and repeated this when he met them in person the following year.

Sir Paul apparently based these assertions on an internal review of the murder investigation conducted by one of his high-flying officers, Detective Chief Superintendent Roderick Barker. The review, which concluded that the investigation had "progressed satisfactorily"

and that all lines of inquiry had been correctly pursued, was cited for four years by high-ranking Met officers as proof that the Lawrences' concerns were unjustified.

The inquiry heard that, rather than rely on the advice of his aides, Sir Paul read and approved the Barker review himself. His judgement is thus expected to be criticised by the inquiry, on the basis that this bland document should have rung alarm bells and prompted him to ask further questions.

The review was dismissed as "indefensible" by Sir William, who interrupted Det Ch Supt

Barker's evidence to declare him an unreliable witness.

As well as giving false comfort to the Met, the review materially affected the success of subsequent attempts to reinvestigate the murder. In 1997, a Police Complaints Authority report identified dozens of missed opportunities and lines of inquiry. Had they been pointed out four years earlier, the killers might have been caught.

Sir Paul is also expected to be criticised for attacking the public inquiry in its early weeks, saying in a statement through his barrister, Jeremy Gompertz QC, that he feared

that it was damaging relations between the police and the black community.

He was questioned closely, when he appeared before the second part of the inquiry, about the grounds on which he had reassured the Lawrence family that all was well.

Sir William's report is likely to have concluded that institutional racism obstructed the murder investigation and that it also blights the Met - a view steadfastly resisted by Sir Paul.

Sir Paul last night declined to comment until the report is published next week.

The prospect of his resigna-

'If I felt that anyone was saying that I had personally acted badly or dishonourably, then I wouldn't hesitate to go'

Sir Paul Condon last week

tion over the Lawrence affair lends a certain symmetry to his career as Commissioner. Sir Paul, who was appointed a few weeks after Stephen was murdered, used his first public

speech to pledge that the Met would be "totally intolerant" of racism. Now, race may have proved his nemesis.

The 23 who stand accused, page 3

Good Friday deal in danger of collapse

SINN FEIN warned yesterday that the Northern Ireland peace process would be plunged into "crisis" if it was barred from Belfast's new government because the IRA had failed to decommission its weapons.

Senior republicans spoke out after the Irish Prime Minister, Bertie Ahern, appeared to back Unionist demands that Sinn Fein should not be allowed to take up seats on the proposed executive without progress in handing over arms. The Taoiseach angered Sinn Fein when he said that membership of the province's 10-strong ruling body was "incompatible" with a lack of progress on decommissioning.

Mitchel McLaughlin, Sinn Fein chairman, said that moves to make disarmament a condi-

tion of his party's joining government would mean "tearing up the Good Friday Agreement". The Sinn Fein president, Gerry Adams, warned that "we are all of us in deep trouble" if the Irish and British governments accept the Unionist stance.

The continuing deadlock over decommissioning is certain to feature highly on the agenda when the Northern Ireland Assembly reconvenes today. The assembly is due to discuss proposals from First Minister, David Trimble, and his deputy, Seamus Mallon, on the 10-member ruling executive and cross-border bodies. Under the Good Friday Agreement,

wide-ranging powers are scheduled to be transferred from Westminster to the Stormont-based executive on 10 March.

While Unionists insist that Sinn Fein cannot take up its ministerial posts until there has been a start on an IRA weapons handover, republicans and nationalists point out that decommissioning was never a pre-condition for the establishment of the executive.

Mr Ahern reignited the issue in a newspaper interview. "It is not compatible with being a part of a government and part of an executive if there is not at least a commencement of decommissioning," he said.

The Irish premier was later forced to clarify his remarks to stress that he did not want to



Ahern: remarks angered Sinn Fein leadership

block Sinn Fein's membership of the executive.

Mr Adams told BBC's *On the Record* there was little point in his trying to persuade the IRA to start decommissioning now. "I would be laughed out of the room. The IRA feels that it has taken its guns out of commission - they are not being used and it has maintained a cessation," he said.

Keegan: I want England job

KEVIN KEEGAN will take the England manager's job if the Football Association offers it, he said yesterday.

The Fulham manager had initially denied interest in the post left vacant by Glenn Hoddie, but he said he would talk to the FA if Mohamed Al Fayed, who owns his west London club, gave permission.

Yesterday the Division Two leaders were knocked out of the FA Cup by Manchester United. Keegan said the growing speculation that he would succeed Hoddie was a big comment. But he was sad that discussion of the England job had overshadowed Fulham's performance in its biggest match in three years.

"Today gave me a real boost so on one side you've got that emotion," he said. "On the other side, you have that pull every Englishman should have if he's going to be a manager and your country comes along. Maybe you should jump at it and forget everything."

BY LOUISE JURY

Keegan made his name as a player with Liverpool, then captained England. After years out of football, he returned amid a blaze of publicity to manage Newcastle United.

Other names are still in the running. Tony Adams, the Arsenal captain, backed Terry Venables to return as the England coach.

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Rail sell-off inquiry MPs will grill a top civil servant on rail sell-off Business P14

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THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD Australia \$5.00 AS Austria 40.00 SGB Belgium 90.00 BFL Canada 5.00 C\$ Czech Republic 112 K Denmark 16.00 DKK Finland 10.00 FM France 6.50 FF Germany 4.50 DM Greece 33.00 GR Hungary 200 HUF Italy 12.00 Lit Japan 100.00 Yen Korea 1000 W\$ Malaysia 3.50 M\$ Mexico 20.00 MX New Zealand 2.00 NZ\$ Norway 4.80 NOK Portugal 200 P\$ Singapore 2.00 S\$ Spain 166.64 Pesetas Sweden 9.00 SKr Switzerland 7.20 CHF Taiwan 25.00 NT\$ Thailand 50.00 THB Turkey 1.25 TL USA 1.00 US\$

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IN THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW

Ear-bashing: how concerts, clubs & stereos
took their toll of the over-40s

HEALTH - THE DEAF GENERATION

THE BEST WRITING, WEEK IN, WEEK OUT: DEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD JACOBSON, HAMISH McRAE, MARK STELL, ROBERT FISK, TERENCE BLACKER, SUSANNAH FRANKEL, JOHN WALSH, RICHARD WILLIAMS, DAVID AARONOVITCH, DEBORAH ORR, THOMAS ST. CLIFFE, MILES KINGTON, SUE ARNOLD, ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH

■ THIS STUDENT
LIFE SEX, BOOZE
& DRUM N' BASS
PLUS MEDIAMo Mowlam
may replace
CunninghamBY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

JACK CUNNINGHAM, the beleaguered cabinet "enforcer", is likely to be replaced by the Northern Ireland Secretary, Mo Mowlam, in a move aimed at improving the way the Government puts across its message to the voters.

Ms Mowlam is being lined up for the post by Tony Blair in a government reshuffle aimed at exploiting her huge public popularity.

The move follows concern that Mr Cunningham has been damaged by the "drip-drip" effect of allegations about Concorde trips and spending, and his performance defending the Government's policy on genetically modified food. Although the Northern Ireland Secretary is currently heavily involved in the peace process, it is expected that she will be free to move in a summer reshuffle.

Downing Street hopes that by July the new Northern Ireland Executive will be running, and that a new Secretary of State can step in to take over the reins.

Tony Blair was tempted to promote Ms Mowlam last summer, but she insisted she wanted to see the peace process through to the creation this March of the Ulster executive outlined in the Good Friday Agreement.

She was also determined to steer the process through its most difficult hours after the Omagh bombing last year. With the latest difficulties on decommissioning, she is keen that nothing deflects her from the task at hand.

The 49-year-old MP for Redcar is seen by party strategists



Mo Mowlam (above) is expected to replace Jack Cunningham as 'enforcer'.



as one of Labour's most "voter friendly" assets and will represent the Government on television and radio.

Her promotion prospects were boosted last year when she presented a party political broadcast that resulted in a record number of membership applications for Labour.

She is also likely to take over a bigger role in campaign co-ordination once this year's round of elections to the European Parliament, local councils, Welsh Assembly and Scottish Parliament are over.

Her appointment as a party figurehead will mark the Government's determination to hold on to its big lead over the Conservatives as it focuses on the "delivery stage" in the run-up to the general election.

Mr Cunningham was moved from Agriculture to his Cabinet Office job to sort out ministerial disputes and "knock heads together". But his number two, Mr Blair's close friend Lord Falconer of Thoroton, has done most of the work co-ordinating Whitehall departments.

Mr Cunningham, who was a Labour minister in the 1970s, was brought in as an experienced operator capable of battling on "several wickets" at once, but he has not been judged a success in the role.

Downing Street believes he has done a competent job, but wants someone with more flair who is more readily associated with Labour's future rather than its past.

Ministers are also irritated that civil servants are continuing to leak details about Mr Cunningham to the press, a fact that was highlighted yesterday when it was revealed that he had moved an aide who objected to his use of taxpayers' money.

Neil Whitney, who worked within the minister's office, was moved after protesting that Mr Cunningham ordered up to six bottles of Macallan malt whisky at once for his drinks cabinet.

More seriously, he has been dogged with complaints about his use of luxury hotels and Concorde, disclosures believed to have been leaked by the staff of his successor at Agriculture, Nick Brown.

GM foods row, page 5



The murder scene in the village of Freeland, where the bodies of Joan and Martin Lawrie were found. PA

Couple battered to death

A QUIET COUPLE in their 70s, Joan and Martin Lawrie, were found battered to death in their village home early yesterday.

Police have refused to comment on mounting speculation that the deaths had been a murder and suicide.

"At this stage we just don't know what has happened," said a spokesman for Thames Valley Police. "We have not had the post-mortems so we cannot comment. We are treating both deaths as suspicious."

Mr Lawrie was in his back garden, apparently having fall-

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE
AND LINDA GREGORIAS

an or been thrown from an upstairs window. He had head injuries. Mrs Lawrie was in a downstairs living-room. She had severe head blows and injuries on her neck, possibly caused by a knife or saw. A claw hammer was found.

A neighbour in Freeland, near Witney, Oxfordshire, had seen Mr Lawrie lying in the garden and called the emergency services, thinking he had collapsed. Paramedics discovered

Mrs Lawrie. Police have sealed off the £130,000 house, in Church View, for forensic science examination.

Mrs Lawrie taught at the local Church of England primary school before retiring 10 years ago. Both were members of the Methodist church. Mr Lawrie was a retired construction worker.

George Williams, who lives opposite the Lawries, said he had known the couple since they moved to the village 35 years ago.

"They were very close neigh-

bours, a well established part of the village. The village is devastated," he said. "They were lovely to chat to. They were nice and good people. The last time I saw Martin was on Thursday."

Paul Harding, landlord of The Oxfordshire Yeoman, added: "Nothing like this has ever happened before around here. This kind of thing will shatter Freeland."

At the Methodist church in the village about 20 villagers gathered for a special service. The Reverend Stainer Smith told the congregation: "Today's service will be shorter than usual, due to the shattering news which has devastated the village."

"Martin and Joan were such lovely, wonderful people who gave their life to God, and we gather here, bemused, perplexed and bereaved."

The post-mortem examination results are expected today.

Danger
patients held
for lifeBY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

PEOPLE with potentially dangerous personality disorders may be locked up indefinitely under sweeping new powers to be announced by the Government today.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, will outline plans to create a new system of detention of those individuals who currently fall outside the remit of the prison service and NHS.

The move follows ministers' concern over the case of Michael Stone, the psychologically disturbed man convicted of murdering Lin Russell and her daughter Megan.

Mr Stone asked to be admitted to a psychiatric unit before the killings, but was refused by doctors.

In a statement to the House of Commons, Mr Straw will announce that police and social workers will be able to apply to magistrates to have a person assessed if there are reasonable grounds to believe they pose a danger to society.

The proposals will allow for people to be detained even if they have not been convicted of a violent offence - a suggestion likely to provoke opposition from civil liberties groups.

The "third service" detention centres will offer counselling and therapy, but the Government is determined to ensure those who have untreatable disorders do not roam the streets.

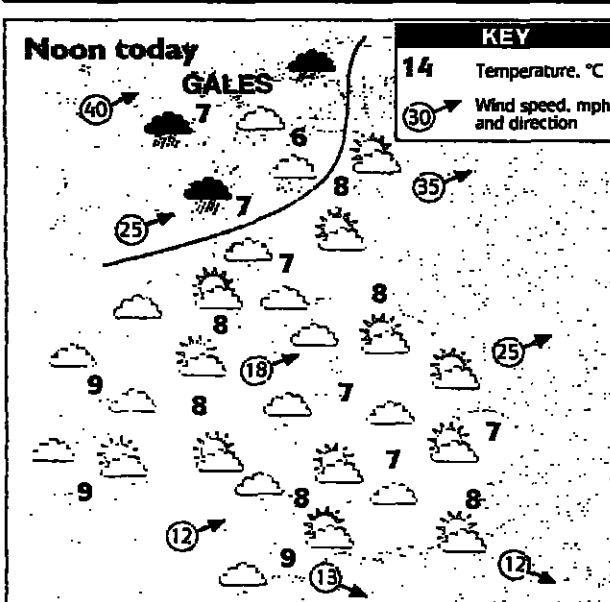
People with non-treatable personality disorders slip through the net between hospital, where they can only be detained if deemed "treatable", and prison, where they can only be held for the duration of their sentence.

The problem was highlighted by the case of Stone and paedophiles such as Robert Oliver, who had to be released from jail even though he was considered a public danger.

Up to 2,700 people deemed to be "walking time bombs" are expected to fall within the remit of the new system.

Civil liberty campaigners said that such individuals needed to be dealt with more effectively, but the Government's proposals were "deeply problematic" and could cost up to £40,000 a year per person.

BRITAIN TODAY



FORECAST
General situation Northern and western Scotland will be windy with outbreaks of rain. Southern and eastern Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales and western England will be mostly dry and fairly mild with a few sunny intervals, but the wind will freshen during the day. Meanwhile, southern and eastern England will be dry and bright with some sunny spells after any local fog and frost clears.

London, East S & SE England, E Midlands, E Anglia, E England: Any local fog and ground frost will lift to leave a dry and mild day with patchy cloud and some sunny spells. A light north-west wind, turning south-westerly. Max temp 7-9C (45-48F).

Channel Is, SW England, S Wales, W Midlands: Mainly dry and mild with patchy cloud and some bright or sunny intervals. A light north-west wind, turning south-westerly. Max temp 7-10C (45-50F).

N Wales, NW, Cent N & NE England, Lake District, Isle of Man: A lot of cloud, but dry with a few sunny spells. A gusty south-west wind will pick up. Max temp 7-9C (45-48F).

N Ireland: A mostly dry and mild day with the cloud breaking to allow a little sunshine at times, more especially in eastern counties. A strengthening south-west wind. Max temp 7-9C (45-48F).

Glasgow, Edinburgh, SW & SE Scotland: Largely dry but increasingly windy with a lot of cloud and only limited sunny intervals. Rain is possible towards evening. Max temp 7-9C (45-48F).

NW & NE Scotland, Aberdeen, W & N Isles: Very windy with outbreaks of rain becoming heavier and more widespread, but drier in Aberdeenshire. A strong to gale south-west wind. Max temp 7-10C (45-50F).

OUTLOOK
Tomorrow will be bright in the south with sunny spells and light showers. The northern half of the UK will be much colder with a strong north-west wind bringing wintry showers. On Wednesday, rain and milder air will spread from the west.

TRAVEL
South Yorkshire: M1 Between J24 Tinsley Viaduct (A5108) & J24 Tinsley Viaduct (A5108). Road closed. Until 21st February 2000. Gloucestershire: A40 Lansdown Rd, Cheltenham. Closed due to roadworks. Inbound. Diversions in place. Until 1st June. Suffolk: A14 Fakenham Docks. Roadworks. Until 28th February. AA Roadworks: Call 0336 401771 for the latest local and national traffic news. Source: The Automobile Association. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT).

YESTERDAY

EXTREMES
Warmest: Isles of Scilly 11C (52F)
Coldest: (day) Norwich 4C (39F)
Wettest: Isle of Wight 0.6 in
Sunniest: Insh 3.5 hrs
For 24hrs to 2pm Sunday

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Max	Min
Aberdeen	6.9	0	5	41	3
Ammanford	3.8	0.01	7	45	3
Auriferous	7.2	0	7	45	3
Belfast	7.0	0	9	46	3
Birmingham	0.1	0.1	5	41	3
Bournemouth	0.8	0.14	6	43	3
Brackley	0.0	0.23	6	43	3
Cardiff	0.1	0.12	7	45	3
Cardiff	0.0	0.05	6	43	3
Cleethorpe	8.9	0	4	39	3
Croft	8.2	0	5	41	3
Edinburgh	7.7	0	9	46	3
Fakenham	0.1	0.04	7	45	3
Fakenham	0.6	0.06	7	45	3
Gloucester	0.1	0.01	5	41	3
Hastings	9.1	0	4	39	3
Hove	6.5	0	6	43	3
Isle of Wight	0.5	0.0	7	45	3
Isle of Wight	0.1	0.02	7	45	3
Jersey	3.4	0.01	5	41	3
Leeds	3.0	0.02	6	43	3
Lewes	2.4	0.02	6	43	3
Liverpool	8.2	0.01	9	46	3
London	8.9	0	4	39	3
Lowestoft	8.0	0	4	39	3
Manchester	1.2	0.05	7	45	3
Marlborough	0.0	0.06	7	45	3
Newcastle	3.8	0.01	7	45	3
Newquay	2.9	0.20	9	46	3
Norwich	8.9	0	6	43	3
Nottingham	0.1	0.02	7	45	3
Nottingham	0.0	0.19	5	41	3
Nottingham	0.0	0.08	4	39	3
Nottingham	0.0	0.09	5	41	3
Nottingham	55.0	0	4	39	3
Nottingham	0.1	0.06	7	45	3
Nottingham	0.1	0.01	8	46	3
Nottingham	0.1	0.15	6	43	3
Nottingham	0.0	0.08	8	46	3
Nottingham	0.0	0.02	6	43	3
Nottingham	0.0	0.09	6	43	3

SUN & MOON

Sun rises: 07:15
Sun sets: 17:15
Moon rises: 06:50
Moon sets: 16:27
New Moon: Feb 16

WEATHERLINE

For the latest forecasts call 0800 5009 (followed by the two digits for your area). Source: The Met. Office. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT).

RAIN OR SHINE...

PLANS WERE under way last night to fly a bird heading for winter in Portugal to sunnier climes after bad weather blew it off course to Britain's most northerly corner. Animal welfare officials are arranging for the bird, a cattle egret, to board a flight to the Portuguese airport of Faro after it was found in Shetland around a fortnight ago. SSPCA Senior Inspector Ron Patterson said: "It is a first for Shetland, we have never seen one up here before."

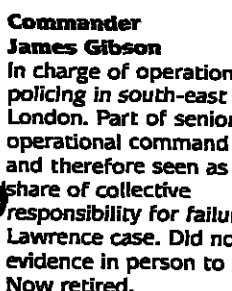
THE WORLD

EUROPE NOON TODAY
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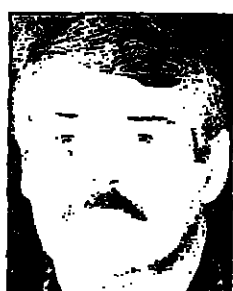
Revealed: the 23 officers who stand accused of failing Stephen Lawrence



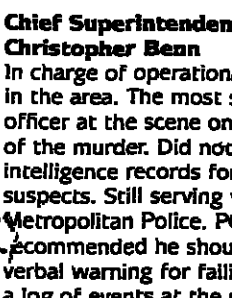
Deputy Assistant Commissioner David Osland
Third most senior officer in Metropolitan Police at time of murder. In charge of policing in south-east London. Commissioned discredited internal review of murder investigation. Advised officers to sue Lawrence family for accusing them of racism. Retired July 1994. Now Conservative councillor in Croydon.



Commander James Gibson
In charge of operational policing in south-east London. Part of senior operational command line and therefore seen as having share of collective responsibility for failures of Lawrence case. Did not give evidence in person to inquiry. Now retired.



Chief Superintendent John Philpot
In charge of uniformed officers on division where Stephen was murdered. Had set up racial incidents unit at Plumstead, the station that initially dealt with murder. Took over responsibility for family liaison after breakdown of relations between Lawrences and two liaison officers. Retired December 1994.



Chief Superintendent Christopher Benn
In charge of operational policing in the area. The most senior officer at the scene on the night of the murder. Did not consult intelligence records for possible suspects. Still serving with Metropolitan Police. PCA recommended he should get a verbal warning for failing to keep a log of events at the scene.



Chief Inspector Jonathan McIvor
Late senior duty officer in area on night of murder. Went briefly to scene; was mainly concerned about public order implications of murder. Told inquiry that he was satisfied that intensive search of area carried out. Now superintendent in Royal Ulster Constabulary. In charge of police training college.



Inspector Stephen Groves
In charge of Territorial Support Group unit at murder scene. Responsible for supervising search for suspects. Told inquiry he thought Duwayne Brooks, Stephen's friend, might be a suspect. Recommended for verbal warning by PCA for failing to keep scene log. Still serving with Metropolitan Police, based at Westminster.

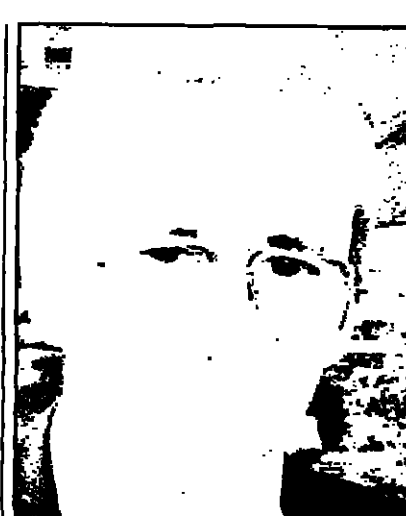
Detective Sergeant John Bevan
One of two detectives appointed to liaise with Lawrence family. Told inquiry that family taken over by anti-racist groups. Denied being unsympathetic or offhand; said family "let me down". Doubtful whether the murder was racially motivated. Still serving, based at Watworth.



Detective Chief Superintendent Roderick Barker
High-flying officer regarded as the "crème de la crème" by Paul Condon and senior colleagues. Chosen to carry out the internal review of the murder investigation now viewed as a whitewash. Would have faced disciplinary charges for neglect of duty if he had not retired (October 1997).



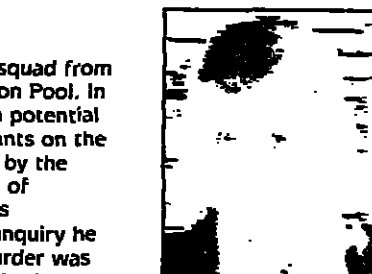
Detective Chief Superintendent William Ilsley
Overall responsibility for supervising investigation. Also responsible for ensuring smooth handover from Det Supt Crampton to DI Bullock. Denied screwing up a list of suspects, given to him by Mrs Lawrence. Would have faced disciplinary charges for neglect of duty if not retired (in March 1995).



Detective Superintendent Ian Crampton
Senior investigating officer for first 72 hours. Took decision not to make early arrests despite flood of tip-offs about suspects. Told the inquiry important tips and information about witnesses never reached him. Would have faced disciplinary charges for neglect of duty if he had not retired (in 1995).



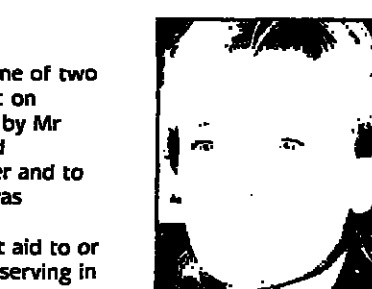
Detective Inspector Philip Jaynes
Most senior detective at the murder scene. Told the inquiry he was not aware of a description of Stephen's attackers given by Duwayne Brooks. Did not talk to key officers at the scene. Visited the Lawrence family at home the next morning. Retired October 1997.



Detective Sergeant John Davidson
Appointed to murder squad from Area Major Investigation Pool. In charge of dealing with potential witnesses and informants on the local estates. Accused by the Lawrences' legal team of "writing off" witnesses prematurely. Told the inquiry he did not believe the murder was racially motivated. Retired.



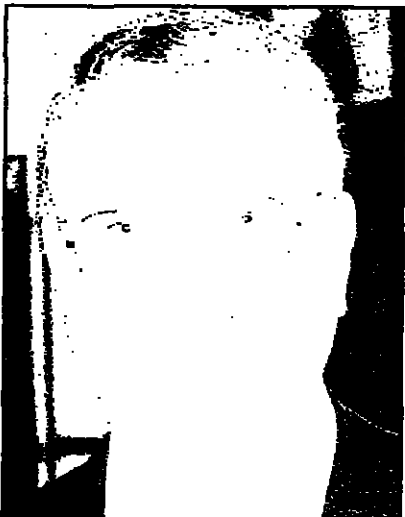
Detective Sergeant Peter Flook
Office manager in incident room at Eltham station. Responsible for identifying actions to be taken and allocating them, also for reading statements and keeping records up to date. Told inquiry was carrying out work of five sergeants. Retired July 1993.



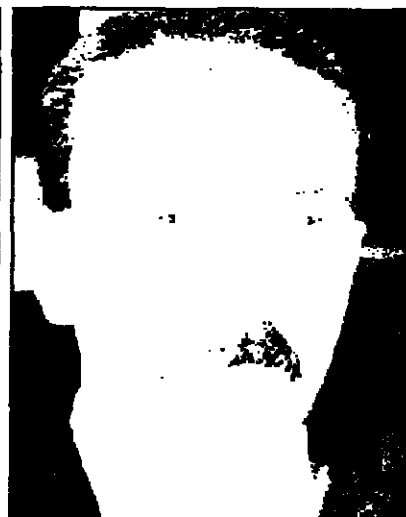
Constable Linda Bethel
Based at Plumstead, one of two uniformed officers first on murder scene. Alleged by Mr Brooks to have ignored information he gave her and to have asked him if he was carrying a weapon. Did not administer first aid to or examine Stephen. Still serving in Metropolitan Police.



Detective Superintendent Brian Weeden
Took over from Det Supt Ian Crampton as senior investigating officer and remained in charge for 18 months. Did not meet the Lawrence family for a year. Told the inquiry he was confused about the legal grounds for arresting suspects. Would have faced disciplinary charges for neglect of duty if he had not retired (in July 1994).



Detective Inspector Benjamin Bullock
Second-in-command of the investigation. The inquiry was told he reacted to an informant with indifference. Only senior murder squad officer still serving. Facing a disciplinary tribunal on charges of serious incompetence and neglect of duty. After a public outcry, he deferred plans to retire in May.



Acting Inspector Ian Little
Was in charge of divisional uniformed officers at the scene. Was the senior officer on duty at hospital, where alleged to have been insensitive in dealings with the Lawrences. Recommended for verbal warning by PCA. Still with Metropolitan Police, now an Inspector based at Plumstead.



Constable Anthony Gleason
Arrived at scene with PC Bethel. Did not administer first aid to Stephen or locate wound. Was accused at inquiry of failing to circulate a description of the attackers. Denied being insensitive towards Stephen's parents at the hospital. Still serving in Metropolitan Police.

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Modern commissioner dogged by the race issue

SIR PAUL CONDON was regarded as the embodiment of a new, modern style of policing when he was appointed Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police in 1993. The youngest commissioner this century, he has established a reputation as a reformer during his period in charge of 26,000 officers, the largest force in the country. But his career has been beset by controversy, particularly over racially sensitive cases. It was during his stewardship that Joy Gardner, an illegal Jamaican immigrant, died of asphyxiation during a raid by officers seeking to deport her in 1993. Two years later, there were riots in Brixton after Wayne Douglas died in a police station cell. Sir Paul also sparked public outrage when he stated in

1995 that the majority of muggers in London were black. More recently, the Met has been criticised not only over the Stephen Lawrence case, but also for its investigation into the murder of the black musician Michael Menson. The case was so badly handled that his death was treated as suicide for a year. Sir Paul, who grew up in a council house in Bournemouth, was an apprentice printer before joining the Met. He often expresses pride about the fact that he started on the same day in 1967 as Norwell Robert, the force's first black officer. His own career took him on to the streets of the East End of London as a young beat officer. Marked out early as a high-flyer, he won a scholarship

to St Peter's College, Oxford, where he took an honours degree in jurisprudence. On his return to London, he joined Scotland Yard's community relations branch and became staff officer to Sir Kenneth Newman, who was then the commissioner. Sir Paul's first big break came in 1988, when he was appointed Deputy Assistant Commissioner in charge of west London, with responsibility for policing the Notting Hill Carnival. He managed to rid the carnival of the violence that had marred it during the Eighties. After four years as Chief Constable of the Kent force, where he introduced performance targets, he returned to the Met as Commissioner. In the six years since he took over, crime figures have fallen to a 10-year low. He has also

launched a crusade against corrupt officers, setting up a special squad of detectives dedicated to rooting out dishonesty. Sir Paul, who is married and lives in Kent, has a reputation as something of a puritan. One of his first actions after becoming Commissioner was to convert the notorious "Tank" bar in the Scotland Yard basement - the watering hole for generations of detectives - into a fitness centre. Even his critics say that his reforming instincts are sincere and that his weaknesses relate to leadership rather than attitude. Despite the battering that the force has received over the Lawrence case, Sir Paul is still regarded as one of the Met's brightest and best. But, short of a miracle, he seems unlikely to survive the next fortnight.



Detective Constable Robert Crane
Exhibits officer with murder squad. Accused at inquiry of failing to store properly a bloodstained tissue found in area the day after Stephen's murder. Expressed doubts about whether killing was racially motivated. Still in Metropolitan Police.

Constable Joanne Smith
Arrived at murder scene shortly after Bethel and Gleason. Did not examine Stephen. Told inquiry she was more concerned to calm Mr Brooks, who she said was abusive and hostile. Took him to hospital in her car. Married to Gleason. Left force in 1996.

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Egyptian mummy found buried in garden

sports. Abuse can occur at all levels, from kick-about in the park to Premier League clubs."



John Lawrence

The grave has been pinpointed by Jean Rowntree as being in part of the three-quarter-acre kitchen garden and Mr Aldridge says he has seen a mysterious blue, diamond-shaped light in the garden about 10 times over the

An employee claimed that

"come with friendly care."
Sister Superior



On GM food projects it's a champion

IN THE MONEY

On GM food projects it's a champion

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Army joins tank crash inquiry

ARMY EXPERTS were called in to examine a tank being driven by military enthusiasts that crashed off a moorland road near Buxton, Derbyshire, killing a young woman and injuring her husband and two other young adults.

Mr Glover's immediate boss demanded a written apology, but he refused and he was dis-

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On GM food projects it's a champion

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'Vagina Monologues': back to basics on St Valentine's Day

FORGET ROSES and candlelight. When some of the world's most talented women got together on St Valentine's Day yesterday all they wanted to do was talk about vaginas.

The occasion was V Day, a celebrity performance at the Old Vic in London of *The Vagina Monologues*, the American playwright Eve Ensler's witty and provocative literary exploration of the most intimate part of a woman's anatomy.

The actresses Gillian Anderson, Kate Winslet, Melanie Griffith and Cate Blanchett were among a cast of about 20 women, spanning television, stage, music and literature.

Ensler created the monologues, a mix of fact and fiction, after interviewing 200 women from a wide range of experiences and backgrounds, including a Bosnian rape victim and Jewish septuagenarian who had rarely thought about "Down There" since being shamed into denial by her first boyfriend's show of disgust.

Chrissie Tiller, the producer, said the cast had taken a while to join the London show.

BY JANE HUGHES

"Meera Syal was the first person to come on board and it was very uphill in the beginning. Some of the young women are at a stage in their career where I wondered if they would risk it, but women like Sophie Dahl, who had seen a production in New York, were delighted to be asked," she said.

A few of the cast had expressed nervousness in rehearsal but, Ensler said, when they went on stage and began working as a group they were empowered by the piece. Last year's charity performance in New York, which included stars such as Winona Ryder and Susan Sarandon, failed to raise any corporate sponsorship.

UK businesses were equally reticent. Only one company put up sponsorship for last night's concert in aid of charities working to end violence against women and children. "A champagne company said they couldn't be associated with such a negative thing, as did a public relations company," Ensler said.



V Day luminaries, including actresses Gillian Anderson, Kate Winslet and Cate Blanchett and model Sophie Dahl

Neville Elder

Eve Ensler's introduction to the *Vagina Monologue*: "I bet you're worried. I was worried. That's why I began this piece. I was worried about the vaginas. I was worried about what we think about vaginas, and even more worried that we don't think about them. I was worried about my own vagina. It needed a context of other vaginas - a community, a culture of vaginas. There's so much darkness and secrecy surrounding them - like the Bermuda Triangle. Nobody ever reports back from there. In the first place, it's not so easy even to find your vagina. Women go weeks, months, sometimes years without looking at it. I interviewed a high-powered businesswoman who told me she was too busy. Looking at your vagina, she said, is a full day's work. You have to get down there on your back in front of a mirror that's standing on its own, full-length preferred."

GM food advisers shake-up planned

SWEEPING CHANGES to the controversial committee that approves trials of genetically modified (GM) crops are being planned by the Environment minister, Michael Meacher.

Wildlife specialists are to be brought on to Acre, the Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment, which has been accused of bias by green campaigners because most of its 13 members have links with the biotechnology industry.

The new committee members will address the fear that has prompted English Nature, the Government's conservation advisers, to call for a three-year moratorium on the commercial growing of GM crops. It is concerned the increased use of pesticides that such transgenic plants allow will devastate insect, plant and bird life.

Many GM crops are now being designed to be tolerant of extremely powerful insecticides and herbicides, the use of which is likely to eliminate all wildlife besides the crops themselves, leaving the fields as "green concrete".

At the moment consideration of these possible side-effects is not part of Acre's remit and the committee does not contain an expert on farmland wildlife.

It does, however, have at least seven members with direct links to the genetic engineering industry, and has so far given permission to test GM crops at more than 500 trial

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY
Environment Correspondent

sites around the country - and never recommended a refusal.

But nine committee members, including the chairman, Professor John Beringer of Bristol University, will step down later this year after serving two three-year terms. Mr Meacher, the minister responsible for Acre who is known to share English Nature's concerns, plans to appoint three ecologists or experts on farmland biodiversity.

"I don't want to criticise Acre or suggest that they have not been rigorous under their present remit," Mr Meacher said yesterday, "but their present brief does not include the cumulative, indirect, long-term effects of GM crops on the environment, and the membership has excluded farmland biodiversity and ecological matters. On the new body we will be having people who do have that expertise."

"Any change to Acre is welcome," Adrian Bebb, food campaigner for Friends of the Earth, said last night. "It has too many links to the biotech industry and it certainly appears to the public to be biased. This might be the beginning of a better balance."

Donald Macintyre,
Review, page 3
Leading article,
Review, page 3

BBC moves to halt impostors

THE BBC announced new security yesterday to bar hoaxers and impostors from programmes after claims that researchers on *The Vanessa Show* hired bogus participants. Guests will now have to sign a declaration certifying they will be truthful. Floor managers will warn audiences on the show and others like it that the BBC could take legal action against hoaxers. All guests must provide documents to prove who they are.

Staff on the show, hosted by Vanessa Feltz, were said to have paid a showbusiness agency £100 per guest for two strip-teasers to pose as feuding sisters. The pair had never met, according to *The Mirror*.

BY LINUS GREGORIADIS

An actress, who is single, was also hired to play an abused wife, the newspaper said.

Some sources said the 22m programme, which started only last month, could be scrapped. Sir John Birt, the BBC director general, was said to be closely interested in the probe being made by Anne Morrison, his head of factual programmes.

Entertainment agencies and fake audience members have confessed they duped the BBC and Trisha, a rival ITV production. A BBC spokeswoman said *The Vanessa Show* and *Kilroy*, a chat show hosted by Robert Kilroy-Silk, the former MP, would go ahead today.

DONALD MACINTYRE

On GM food, the Tory party projects itself as the champion of the consumer

IN THE MONDAY REVIEW PAGE 3

"Sometimes I need the facts at once."

"Having the right information - immediately - can really make a difference. Sometimes I don't have time even to make a call. In cases like these I can still get vital information from my hospital - pharmaceutical information about dosages and contraindications, for example. I use the Nokia Communicator to connect to the hospital's database over the Internet. For me, technology isn't valuable in itself. It's simply a way for me to serve my patients better."

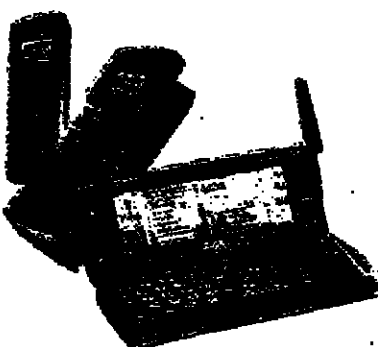
Dr. Luigi Radice
M.D.



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Is our most subsidised line taking us for a ride?

AT 10.42AM a 60-year-old London Underground train grinds slowly out of Ryde Pier Head station on the Isle of Wight carrying a handful of passengers. The conductor walks down the train's two carriages checking tickets. At 11.06am it pulls into Shanklin - the end of the route - on time. Welcome to Britain's most efficient railway.

By repeating this feat twice an hour seven days a week, Island Line has been named by the Rail Regulator as a model for the rest of the industry. Forget the 140mph Great North Eastern Railway from London to Edinburgh and, most definitely, disregard Britain's most famous line, Brunel's Great Western Railway.

Island Line was the only railway company to receive an "A" for punctuality and reliability under a new grading system launched last week. It ran 99.6 per cent of its scheduled services, 95 per cent of which

BY PHILIP THORNTON
Transport Correspondent

were on time. In an average week only seven of its 1,711 services were cancelled - and just 86 were late.

Given that the line is made up of just 8.5 miles of (mostly) single track, this good record is hardly surprising.

"The most efficient railway? So we ought to be, being the smallest," said the line's general manager, Alan Cracknell. Island Line is also the most heavily subsidised in Britain, with the taxpayer contributing 63p for every passenger mile travelled. This is the equivalent of a Treasury contribution of £5.40 on top of the £2.70 fare for the railway's eight miles and 616 yards from Ryde Pier Head to Shanklin.

Stagecoach, the parent company, receives £2 million a year to run a service that does not even connect to the island's

capital, Newport. "This is not value for money for the taxpayer and it could be better spent," said an industry insider.

The Island Line franchise expires in 2001. If it is to continue as a railway, it will need massive investment in track and trains. The Government recently said that it might replace the line with an "infinitely better, faster, more modern, more accessible coach service". But for Labour to close a line in the heart of middle-class southern England could be politically unwise.

Another option would be for the Government to end the subsidy and make a one-off investment in an upgraded tram system to connect Newport. One estimate put the cost at £20 million, equivalent to a decade's subsidy.

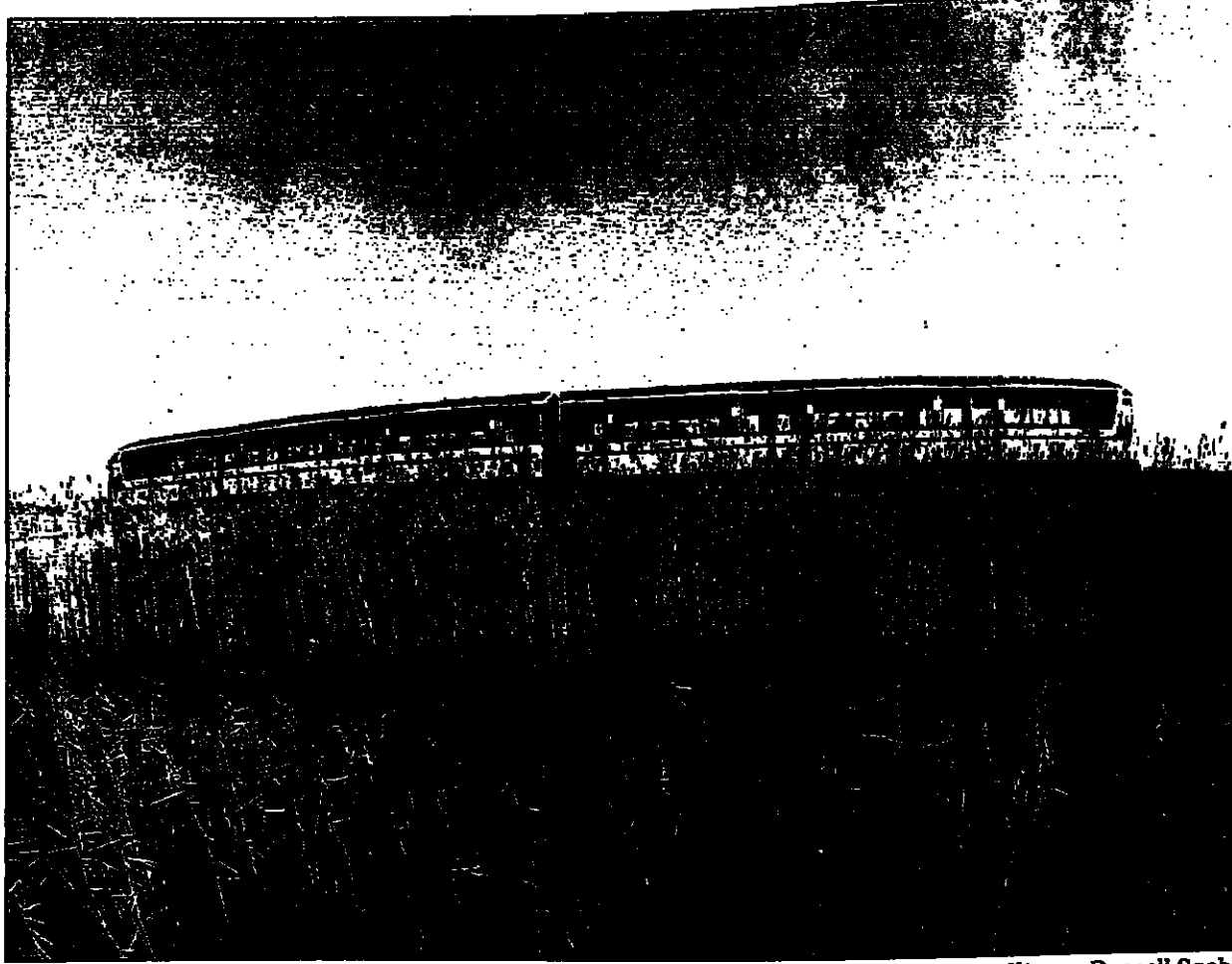
The Government has made clear that only good operators will be allowed to take part

in the railway of the future. Stagecoach will point to the performance figures, a 10 per cent cut in fares since privatisation, and the fact that it coordinates its trains to meet the ferry.

But there is growing anger within the railway industry that the system that made Island Line best operator will be used to choose which companies have a future in the industry.

One senior railway figure said that the new system, which takes no account of the size of the network or the age of the infrastructure, had been fixed to paint an appalling picture of the railways and allow the Government to claim credit for an improvement in a year's time.

He is furious that his service received a low grade despite improving in 1998 and hitting almost all the targets set under the old regime.



An Island Line train approaches Sandown, Isle of Wight. The line got an "A" for punctuality Russell Sachs

New test reopens unsolved murders

HUNDREDS OF unsolved murders, rapes and other cases are being reopened thanks to new investigative and DNA analysis techniques.

The cases, some almost 30 years old, range from a student discovered with a broken neck to two young women who were raped, murdered and dumped by the side of a motorway. They include some of the most baffling and mysterious unsolved crimes - so-called "cold" investigations. In a technological breakthrough, forensic scientists can now provide DNA profiles of criminals from a single blood cell, a sperm or even from a flake of skin left on a light switch.

Within a decade, forensic scientists believe they will be able to produce a full genetic "photo" of a suspect's weight, height, facial characteristics, hair and eye colour from a single cell or a drop of blood.

Dave Barclay, a senior scientist at the Forensic Science Service and its co-ordinator at the National Crime Faculty, said: "We are trying to ally new techniques such as DNA to new ways of looking at crime scenes so that we can reinterpret circumstances and try and discover in more detail exactly what happened."

At the forefront of DNA testing is the single-cell technique. A Forensic Science Service spokesman said: "The new procedure is cutting edge. We have only started using it during the past couple of weeks. It's based on the idea of taking DNA from smaller and smaller pieces of evidence... a speck of blood so small it is invisible to the naked eye, or a flake of dandruff."

But the service will not offer the new system to police until it has been tested and ratified. A handful of cases are being re-examined in a pilot scheme.

Before more sophisticated sampling was devised, officers

BY JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

used to "tape" bodies, using sticky tape to pick up any hairs that may have been shed by the attacker. The tapes and other hairs from crime scenes were often kept. DNA can be taken from even a dead shaft of hair.

Advances have also enabled detectives to obtain overlooked intelligence from old cases and work out what happened. This technique, called "physical profiling" allows, for example, detectives to calculate where and how an attack may have taken place, or what type of weapon was used and in what way.

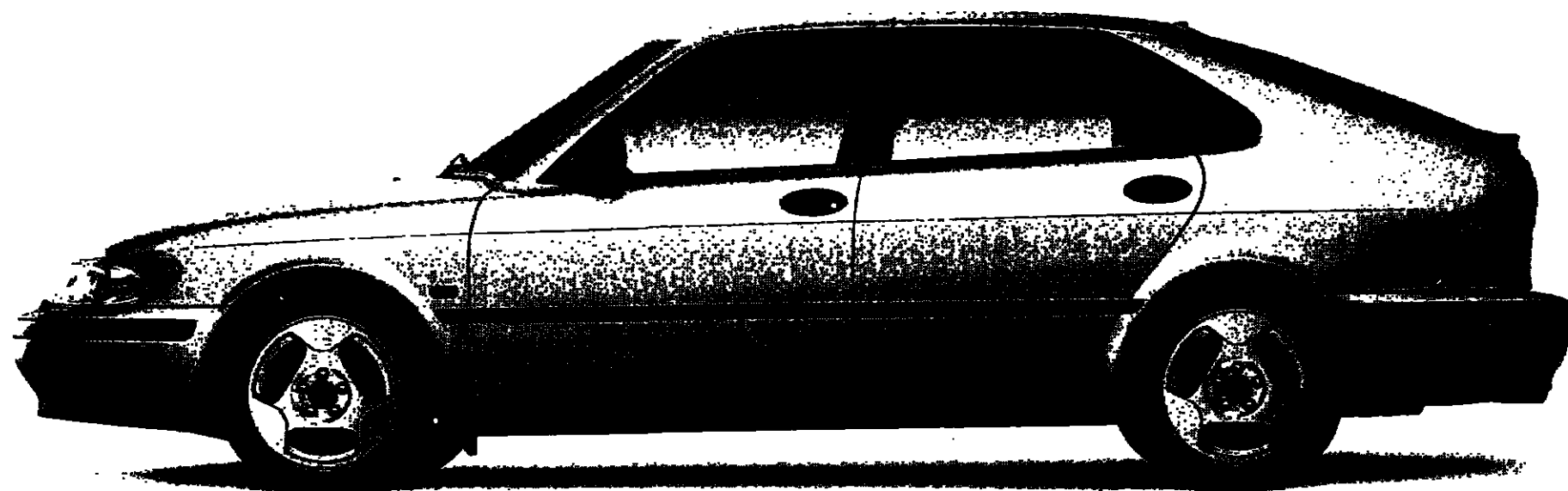
These methods are also being used as part of the ongoing Operation Enigma investigation, which is examining possible links between unsolved murders of women and killings involving prostitutes.

Among the hundreds of "cold case" inquiries that are benefiting from the new techniques are the killings of:

■ Barbara Mayo, 24, who in 1970 was found in woods off the M1 in Derbyshire. She had been raped and strangled. After tests on a sample of the killer's DNA found on Mayo's clothing, police believe the murderer was probably responsible for the killing of Jacqueline Ansell-Lamb, 18, a secretary who died in similar circumstances, also in 1970.

■ An unidentified young woman found murdered and dumped in Bedgebury Forest, Kent, in October 1979. She suffered massive head injuries from a beating. The case was reopened last October after forensic science tests were done on stored evidence.

A former lorry driver, in his early 70s, from Kent, was arrested last month in connection with the murder and was later bailed. A report will be sent to the Crown Prosecution Service.



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Schools may drop modular A-levels

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL heads have warned the Government that proposed changes to the A-level will lead to a dilution of the exam generally regarded as the gold standard.

James Sabben-Clare, head of Winchester, said that his school, which regularly leads the A-level league table, might consider abandoning the exam and taking the International Baccalaureat instead.

Ministers have insisted that plans, to be announced short-

ly, to broaden the A-level will maintain its existing high standard. From September next year pupils will be able to begin five subjects in the sixth form and take new AS exams at the end of their first year. They will then decide whether to continue with three A-levels, the usual number at present, or to carry on with more subjects.

The new courses will be offered in six "modules", or bite-sized chunks, with exams that can be taken throughout the two years and mixed with advanced vocational qualifications if pupils wish.

Both universities and state school heads have welcomed the changes, which were first proposed in a report by Sir Ron, now Lord, Dearing. Many independent school heads are also enthusiastic. Many maths and science A-levels are already modular and modular

exams are growing in popularity in both state and independent schools.

But Mr Sabben-Clare, chairman of the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference (HMC) of leading independent schools told officials from the Department for Education at a meeting last week that some academic schools were concerned about the preservation of traditional exams taken at the end of two years.

Exam boards will still be

able to offer these exams but Mr Sabben-Clare said he feared that the decision to make modules the norm would affect the way all A-levels were assessed.

He said: "Modules seem to work quite well in subjects such as science, but at Winchester we believe that the changes will make subjects like history less seriously analytical. It will be reduced to a series of specified topics and those with imagination will be penalised. Serious academic

study of history will be compromised."

Winchester already offers international GCSEs for younger pupils. Mr Sabben-Clare said that if the fears about the new A-level were realised, he would consider opting out of the exam and putting pupils in for the International Baccalaureat, which requires a spread of arts and science subjects and a paper in the theory of knowledge.

Several leading independent

schools, such as Malvern and Sevenoaks, already offer the IB.

Vivian Anthony, secretary of HMC, said: "There are some schools who feel that A-level as it is at present has served them well and whose particular concern is that it is not quite the challenge it was in the past."

"There are others who are clamouring for a broader range of subjects and more flexibility to do vocational qualifications alongside A-levels, which will be possible under the new system."

John Dunford, general secretary of the Secondary Heads Association, which represents state school secondary heads, said he had no worries about the standard of the new exams. "We are right behind these changes. It will lead to greater breadth and will enable students who at the moment drop out of A-level courses to get some accreditation for a worthwhile performance. I would not want to see any backtracking by the Government."

Britons glory in the war, says German minister

BASIL FAWLEY'S advice may have been spot on when, in advance of the arrival of a group of Germans at his disaster-prone fictional hotel, he famously pleaded to his staff: "Don't mention the war." But the trouble is, it appears that we cannot help ourselves.

From the football terrace to the television, from our mass-produced lager to our popular literature and magazines, Britain, it seems, remains obsessed with a war that ended more than 50 years ago.

Yesterday it was revealed that some prominent Germans believe this British obsession with the Second World War goes even further. Michael Naumann, the German Culture Minister, claimed that the interest in the war had actually become the spiritual core of Britain's national identity.

"There is only one nation in the world that has decided to make the Second World War a sort of spiritual core of its national self, understanding and pride," said Mr Naumann, a former journalist.

Mr Naumann said this obsession was most evident in Britain's attitude to football. Not only were terrace chants

"Two world wars and a World Cup too" and xenophobic headlines examples of this, but the very language used by the British revealed an overriding inability to think of Germans without reference to the war.

"Think of poor old Franz Beckenbauer (former German captain and coach)," Mr Naumann said. "One of the most elegant players in the game and the only metaphor you had available for him was to call him a Panther."

Many would argue that for one generation, the Second World War with its attendant rationing, blitzes and the death of so many young men was understandably a defining period.

WHY WE CAN'T STOP TALKING ABOUT THE WAR

DAILY MIRROR

ACHTUNG!

SURRENDER

DAD'S ARMY

Gentle humour perhaps, but just who is the audience supposed to be laughing at? Is it Capt Mainwaring and the Walmington-on-Sea Home Guard or is it those pesky Germans who "don't like it up them"? Either way, the show repeats the same old stereotypes, particularly in the opening credits when the red, white and blue arrows of Britain take on the black arrows of Germany. Who do you think you are kidding Mr Hitler? Even though they were made years ago, shows such as Dad's Army and 'Allo 'Allo remain hugely popular. (Last summer Dad's Army was still pulling in more than 4.5m viewers.)

THIRD REICH MAGAZINE

Launched this month by Bright Star publishing, Hitler's Third Reich "gives the facts and reveals the secrets of the most evil empire in history". Among the delights the magazine will cover in the months ahead are: The secret Hitler files, Hitler's war machine, Hitler's battles, Nazi horrors and the Holocaust. The magazine is just one example from the publishing world of our continuing obsession with all things Nazi. Robert Harris's Fatherland was well researched, well-written and the best of the "what-would-have-happened-if-the-Nazis-had-won" genre. It has also been hugely popular.

CARLING

Picture the scene. The sun-loungers are set out around the pool and the overweight Germans are out of their hotel beds at the crack of dawn to secure their spots. But what's this? A suave Brit casually tosses his rolled up towel across the pool, where, accompanied by the theme tune of The Dambusters, it bounces across the water. As it lands on the prime sunbed, out rolls a can of Carling Black Label lager. This, by the way, is a TV advert commissioned by Carling to make people go out and buy its beer. Chocks away.

FAWLEY TOWERS

Undoubtedly a classic episode that has given fuel to scores of impersonators, but what was John Cleese up to? When he tells his staff not to "mention the war" after a group of Germans arrive at the hotel, was he making fun of the British obsession with the war, or was he helping to perpetuate it even further? Because Fawley Towers might be thought to have a reasonably sophisticated audience, was Cleese trusting that we are actually learning to laugh at ourselves and the resident Major? Or was he just cashing in on a cheap and easy laugh?

here 10 years and I have only suffered any [racial] abuse once, and that was after an England football game when my car still had German plates on it."

Others disagree. Professor Gordon Smith of the University of London said that while the Germans were trying to put the war behind them, the British wanted to hang on to it. "Just look at the BBC, always dust-

ing off those old war films and repeating them," he said. "Just after the war, having won against the odds, these things may have had a value but what is the point now?"

"I think that something that may have initially come from a feeling of supremacy is now perpetuated by a sense of inferiority. We don't like the fact that the German economy is strong."

Apart from the behaviour of some football fans and the tabloid headline writers, the most obvious examples of such an obsession are television shows such as 'Allo 'Allo and Dad's Army. But by portraying the SS commander Herr Fick as a leather-wearing fascist, are we laughing at the Germans or laughing at our own obsession with laughing at the Germans?

Have we all suddenly become terribly ironic?

"I think there is a difference between the headlines during the European Championship - which were of the moment - and other, more long-term aspects," said Bob Ferguson, a lecturer in media studies at the University of London.

"In the longer term, I think this interest stems from the fact that the Second World War still

sells. It is also cheap to produce," Mr Ferguson said.

"It provides us with someone else for us to laugh at and it also provides a myth that keeps us going. We might mythologise our victory but as far as I know the Russians won the war."

Mr Naumann said that the obsession was infecting all areas of British life, pointing to the recent portrayal of the German Finance Minister, Oskar

Lafontaine, in The Sun as possibly "the most dangerous man in Europe".

"It's not as though poor Oskar goes to bed crying about this," he said.

"But to call him a gauleiter goes to the gut. People do not understand what a personal offence this is to people who have spent their lives rebuilding this nation and are truly anti-Fascist."

Lockerbie trial closer as Gaddafi agrees Cook plan

THE DEADLOCK over handing over the two Libyans suspected of the 1988 Lockerbie bombing may have finally been broken. International mediators say the Libyan leader, Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, has accepted a new proposal from the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, to allow UN officials to supervise the men if they are jailed.

The Foreign Secretary welcomed the breakthrough yesterday. "We now look as if we are closer to that than we've ever been before," he said. "It has been seven months of hard effort, but at least it looks as though we could be approaching the endgame."

The two suspects, Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi and Lamen Khalifa Fhimah, are accused of planting the bomb that killed 270 people 10 years ago. The British and Americans have been pressing Libya to hand over the men for trial since they were formally charged in 1991.

Last summer, Colonel Gaddafi accepted in principle to deliver the suspects after agreement was reached that the trial could be held in a neutral country - the Netherlands.

By PAUL LASHMAR

The stumbling block remained - where the men would serve any sentence. If found guilty. The mediators, President Nelson Mandela's aide, Jake Gervais, and a Saudi diplomat, Rihab Massoud, visited Colonel Gaddafi last week.

Mr Cook said: "I saw Mr Gervais and Mr Massoud on Monday before they departed for Tripoli. I sent through them a clear message that we could not compromise the principle that the two men should serve any sentence in Scotland, but we were very willing to explore with Kofi Annan the full involvement of the UN in supervising a separate prison wing. Mr Gervais and Mr Massoud reported on Thursday that this could be the basis of agreement."

There have already been negotiations for special arrangements for the men's religious and dietary needs if they were imprisoned.

It has been also agreed that Libyan diplomats could be based in Glasgow to represent the men. But Foreign Office sources say the offer of UN su-



Robin Cook: 'We may be nearing the endgame'

pervision at the prison seems to have broken the recent impasse.

The head of Kofi Annan's office, Iqbal Riza, is to write to the Libyan leader to ask for an explicit agreement to the trial in the Netherlands.

But Mr Cook cautioned: "I am not going to let out any sign of relief until the two suspects land in the Netherlands."

Jim Swire, who lost his daughter Flora in the Lockerbie bombing said: "I think the trial is going to happen. But I am not sure the Americans will sign the agreement. I don't

think the American want this trial and have not agreed to the trial in a neutral country." The UN are due to review the sanctions against Libya on 26 February. Sanctions have been in place since Libya refused to hand over the two men seven years ago. While Britain has never put a deadline on reaching agreement with the Libyan government to hand over the suspects, the Americans have indicated that they would ask for tightening of sanctions if the Libyans had not complied.

In South Africa, a statement from President Mandela's office also said there had been progress toward resolving the issue. "We are happy to be able to announce that positive results were achieved in these discussions and that common understanding was reached on all the outstanding issues on this matter," a statement said.

Earlier this month, the Saudi ambassador to Washington, Prince Bandar, visited Libya and held talks with Colonel Gaddafi in what appeared to be a final attempt for a solution before the United States and Britain proposed new sanctions against Libya.

Blair U-turn on Livingstone

DOWNING STREET is preparing a high-stakes strategy of allowing Ken Livingstone on to Labour's shortlist for mayor of London - but it can find a rival candidate capable of beating him.

The move to challenge the "Livingstone problem" head on comes as the former GLC leader holds a rally today calling for Tony Blair to allow his name to go forward in a one member, one vote ballot in the capital.

The comedian Jo Brand and the novelist Beryl Bainbridge will attend the meeting tonight at Westminster Central Hall that will mark the start of Mr Liv-

ingstone's campaign. In a populist move that echoes his leadership at County Hall more than a decade ago, he has placed adverts in the London Evening Standard calling on Londoners to back his right to stand.

If the campaign picks up momentum, it could prove too embarrassing for Mr Blair and Labour to scupper the MP's chances and could provoke more "control freak" headlines.

Ministerial sources have indicated there is a clear twin-

track approach being devised that involves either blocking the MP through a vetting panel or taking him on with a "heavy hitter" in a straight fight.

The Blair camp's decision to keep open the option of Livingstone candidacy follows worries that plans to veto him could lead to unrest in the party.

Even backbench MPs who do not agree with the Brest East MP's views believe that he should be allowed to stand.

The strategy is fraught with danger for the party leadership as Mr Livingstone is believed to have significant grassroots

support in London. However, party chiefs believe that the wider "armchair" membership in London, as opposed to the activists, will back a Blairite alternative.

The Secretary of State for Health, Frank Dobson, was seen as the best person capable of winning a mayoral primary, but he has said he has no intention of standing.

If no suitable candidate can be found within the next few months, the party is prepared to fall back on moves to block the former GLC leader through a vetting panel.

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Court shows experts split on screening

A HIGH COURT case that ends today has revealed a disturbing split between medical experts over how effectively they can spot a virulent form of cervical cancer. Their disagreement will further shake confidence in the cervical screening programme, which has been hit by several scares in recent years.

Judge Peppitt QC is to rule on the case of three women from Kent who claim they have cancers as a result of misdiagnosed smear tests by the Kent and Canterbury Hospital, centre of the worst cervical screening scandal, in which eight women are believed to have died and 30 needed hysterectomies because of failures.

Hele Palmer, 35 of Whitstable, Sandra Penney, 35 of Ramsgate, and Lesley Cannon, 38, from Sheppey say the hospital screeners misread their test, and as a result they contracted adenocarcinoma, the less common form of cervical cancer that affects mainly younger women. All three needed radical hysterectomies.

Much of the dispute in the 10-day court case centred on whether cytotechnicians, the laboratory technicians who examine slides, should have been able to notice the pre-cancerous signs when the smears were taken between 1990 and 1992. The medical science of analysing such slides is said to have improved since the early 1980s.

But, alarmingly, the experts in the case disagreed over what the women's four smears showed. In one case they were split on whether a 90 smear showed signs of adenocarcinoma at all. Of four cytopathologists who examined the slide, two said there was clear evidence of pre-cancer and two said there was no such evidence.

The two medical experts who were retained by the women said the smear shows serious and readily visible abnormalities. Professor Roger Ccon, 73, the retired head of cytology at Nottingham University Hospital, said "signifi-

BY PAUL LASHMAR
AND JEREMY LAURANCE

cant glandular abnormalities are present... In my opinion this delay of five and half years (until diagnosis of cancer) is inexcusable."

Professor Thomas Krauz, 51, a consultant at Hammersmith Hospital, agreed with Professor Cotton. "This is not a negative smear as stated in the original," he said. Professor Krauz had several of his cytotechnicians at Hammersmith blind-test the slide. All four identified problems.

But the two experts advising the East Kent Health Authority, on behalf of the hospital, voiced the opposite opinion. Dr Andrew Boon, 40, consultant of St James' University Hospital, Leeds, said: "Even in retrospect, I cannot find any convincingly dyskaryotic cells within the smear and all the changes present could be reasonably attributed to florid inflammation."

Dr David Hughes, 35, consultant at Chesterfield Hospital, said: "I agree with Dr Boon that the 1990 smear is acceptable as negative."

Judge Peppitt was clearly disturbed by the conflict over the slides and came back to it a number of times during the hearings. The consultants were cross-examined about their evidence. Such disagreement will raise concern over the effectiveness of cervical screening programmes.

Adenocarcinoma accounts for 10 to 15 per cent of cervical cancers but the proportion is growing. Its diagnosis and treatment is fraught with difficulty. Experts say that cells indicative of adenocarcinoma on the smear are the most difficult to interpret.

The National Cervical Screening Service said that even with regular smears every three to five years, only 50 per cent of adenocarcinomas will be prevented, compared with 80 to 90 per cent of invasive squamous cell cervical cancers, the commonest sort.

Julietta Patrick, national co-ordinator of the screening service, said: "The evidence from around the world shows the cervical smear test is not a reliable test for picking up and preventing adenocarcinoma."

To demonstrate medical negligence, the victim must prove the standard of care was below that of a reasonably competent practitioner at the time. Kent and Canterbury Hospital NHS Trust has denied this.

The trust has already admitted the screening department was poorly run and the screeners inadequately trained. It has settled 45 cases but refused compensation to women in other cases.



Simon Rattle conducting Ravel's 'La Valse' for his first masterclass at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London

Laurie Lewis

Four in five back enforced right to roam

BY KUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

PRESSURE ON the Government to improve access to the countryside has been increased by a poll published today, which finds more than four people in five back a Right to Roam Bill.

An IOP survey, commissioned by The Ramblers' Association, found 83 per cent of adults supported a backbench Bill to force landowners to open up about four million acres. The Independent can reveal.

The poll of 1,001 people throughout the UK shows that the proposals published last week by Gordon Prentice, MP for Pendle, attract overwhelming support across all ages and social classes. The legislation would allow the public freedom to walk on designated areas of mountain, moorland, heath, down and common land, subject to "common sense" restrictions to protect crops and animals.

NOP found that just 13 per cent believed their local MP would not back the Bill, compared with 83 per cent who wanted them to vote for it and 56 per cent who didn't know.

Support was strong in areas of moorland and where the measures would have most impact, with residents in Scotland, the North East, North West and Yorkshire all backing the Bill by at least 79 per cent.

The Bill will receive its Second Reading next month and Labour MPs are anxious that it gets the government backing needed to ensure its passage.

Michael Meacher, the Environment minister in the next few weeks, but they are expected to recommend voluntary agreements between landowners and councils to increase access. By contrast, the Prentice



John Smith: Labour leader promised a right to roam

Bill would honour Labour's manifesto commitment to give walkers a statutory freedom to roam by imposing big fines on landowners who do not comply.

The Bill is becoming known as the "John Smith Memorial Bill" in recognition of the pledge by the former Labour leader to introduce a right to roam; the issue has a strong emotional pull on the Parliamentary Labour Party.

More than 140 MPs, including four ministers and two former cabinet ministers, are likely to back the proposals. Many are furious at speculation that the Government will kill the Bill by refusing it parliamentary time.

Mr Prentice said last night that the poll result proved the popularity of the Right to Roam issue.

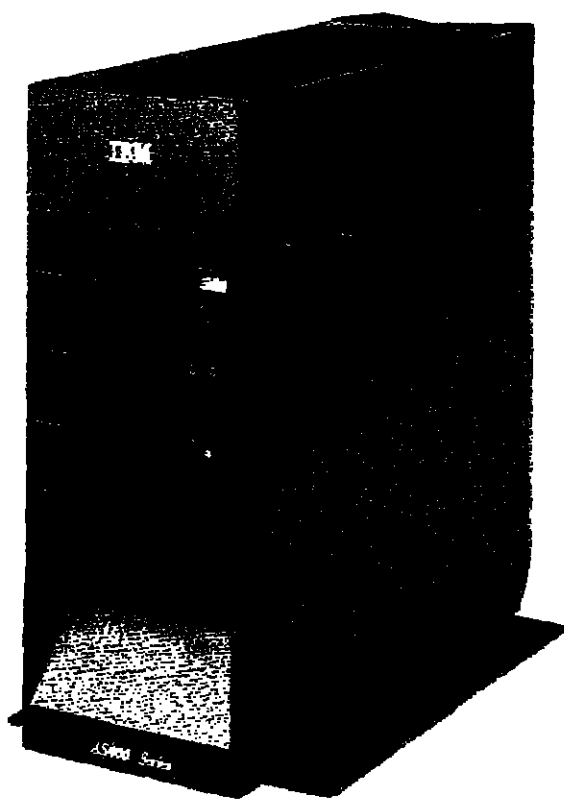
"The Government is faced with a stark choice: it could go along with the leaks published in the press recently that it will hand landowners a veto over access, or it could back legislation such as mine," he said.

"We have been relying on landowners offering voluntary access... for over 50 years, with little to show for our patience."

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Nato sets deadline on Serb air strikes

SERBIA AND the federal Yugoslav government have in effect been given one final week to agree to the major powers' peace plan for Kosovo, or face Nato air strikes to break Belgrade's hold on the overwhelmingly Albanian province.

That blunt message was delivered to the stalled Rambouillet conference between Serbs and ethnic Kosovo Albanians by the US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, yesterday, in a visit that brought the two sides face-to-face for the first time since the talks began eight days earlier.

Ms Albright spent more than three hours in the former royal chateau in talks with the two delegations, before returning to Paris for a meeting of foreign ministers of the six-nation Contact Group, which was expected to authorise the extension of negotiations for a settlement of the year-long war.

Leaving no doubt that she blamed Belgrade for the impasse in the negotiations, Ms Albright indicated that while the Albanian side were ready to sign the agreement more or less as it stood, the Serbs were still holding out - although, she noted dryly, "they seemed very interested in what I had to say". The Serb version of her meeting with Milan Milutinovic, the Serbian President, was much blunter, with one Belgrade official describing the

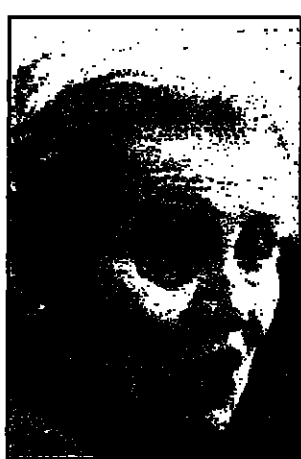
BY RUPERT CORNWELL

hour-long encounter as "tense and uncomfortable" and a "rather one-way conversation". What the Secretary of State had to say was that, unless Belgrade accepted the package, it would face Nato air strikes. There was, she warned, "very little room for bargaining".

The heat is squarely on the Serbs, who have blocked any real progress at Rambouillet by insisting the ethnic Albanians formally endorse the statement of 10 principles issued when the two sides were summoned to negotiate a fortnight ago, and which grant Kosovo a wide measure of autonomy.

The ethnic Albanians are reluctant to do so because the document makes no reference to a referendum on independence once the three-year interim period covered by the draft agreement is over. But as Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, complained last week, the Serbian demand is irrelevant since both sides implicitly accepted the 10 principles when they agreed to come to Rambouillet.

Though diplomats last night were stressing that the odds of success in Rambouillet were no more than 50-50, they were drawing some encouragement from Ms Albright's success in at least managing to get the two sides into the same room, after



Albright: Reach deal in one week or Nato will strike

a week of sometimes meandering "proximity talks" conducted by US, European and Russian mediators.

The stakes now could not be higher for all involved. In anticipation of an agreement, preparations for a 30,000-strong Nato peace-keeping force are in full swing. Britain is pre-positioning equipment and has 8,000 men on full alert to go to the Balkans, while on Saturday President Bill Clinton gave the clearest indication yet that up to 4,000 US ground troops would take part.

But failure of the talks would bring disarray and crisis all round. Within the contact group, France and Italy are far less keen on air strikes than the

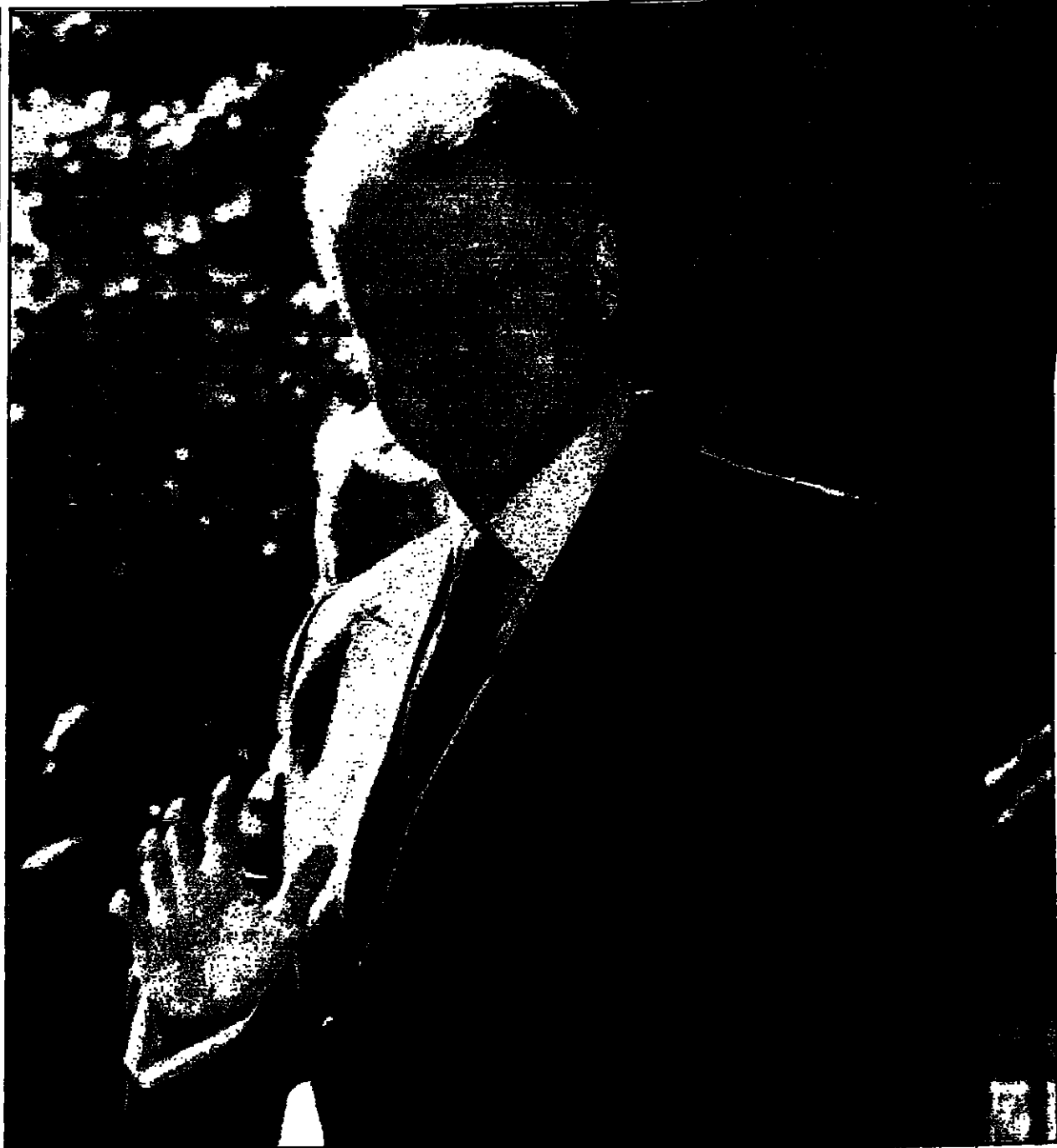
US, while Russia flatly opposes them. There is disagreement too about whether Nato should act without prior specific endorsement from the United Nations. On the ground, fighting would almost certainly increase in spring.

The conference was at a fork, Ms Albright declared. One way led to "chaos, disaster and more killing", the other "to a rational solution that will achieve peace, democracy and human rights for Kosovo". That choice at least had been recognised by the two sides in Rambouillet.

Especially important is the annex covering Kosovo's security. Under the present draft, Yugoslavia would be allowed to keep only 4,000 troops and security force members in Kosovo, compared with the present 14,000 or more.

There would be 1,500 permitted as border police, alongside 2,500 police, who would operate until Kosovo's own police force, stipulated by the agreement, is set up.

But, as Tony Blair and President Clinton said at the weekend, those ground troops will go in only if Rambouillet produces a settlement. There is no question of risking Western soldiers' lives in what the planners call a "non-permissive environment" - that is, as peace-imposers, not peace-keepers, to all intents and purposes at war with Belgrade.



President Clinton leaving the Foundry Methodist Church in Washington yesterday Larry Downing/Reuters

Washington returns to life after Monica

FROM THE President to the politicians to the media, it was back to something like normal this weekend, as everyone tried to put the year-long drama of impeachment behind them.

For the first time in months, the White House sex scandal and its aftermath shared the headlines - with talks over Kosovo, disruption from an airline strike, and local news.

After attending church - as he has done most Sundays through the crisis - the President left for Mexico on a visit that had been rescheduled so he did not appear to be fleeing the Senate verdict. The White House gave an account of his weekend activities (dinner with his wife, reading in preparation for Mexico) designed to give the impression of quiet normality and no rejoicing at Friday's acquittal.

Mrs Clinton was said to be deciding whether she should run for the New York Senate

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

seat being vacated by Pat Moynihan.

Mr Moynihan - said to be impatient for her to make up her mind and not regarded as one of her biggest fans - said that if she decided to run, she would win. The White House chief of staff, John Podesta, concurred, telling a television talk show yesterday: "I think that if she does run, she'll win, and if she wins, she'll make a great United States senator."

With a few notable exceptions, the politicians left town within hours of the Senate verdict - senators, professing themselves tired and keen to see their families again, Representatives intent on putting distance between the year of scandal and the legislative business of the year that awaits. Today's Presidents Day holiday, with its week-long congress-

sional recess and the school half-term week that follows, have given everyone an opportunity to make for the ski slopes or beaches - and they have done just that.

Even the residual echoes of the Monica Lewinsky case were - probably only temporarily - tuned out. Staff at the Office of the Independent Counsel, Kenneth Starr, were said to be divided about whether to indict Mr Clinton on perjury or obstruction of justice charges while he was still in office, or even afterwards.

John Kasich, a tax-cutting Ohio Republican, who chairs the House Budget Committee, said that he would embark today on the first stage of a run for the presidency. Mr Kasich 46, a convincing public speaker who projects himself as the voice of the ordinary American, has kept himself on the sidelines of the Clinton impeachment battle.

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Account Balance	Old AER %	Old Gross %	New AER %	New Gross %	New Net %
Investment Account - paid quarterly					
£100,000+	5.25	5.10	4.84	4.75	3.80
£25,000 - £99,999	4.84	4.69	4.38	4.30	3.40
£10,000 - £24,999	4.45	4.30	4.00	3.92	3.00
£5,000 - £9,999	4.06	3.91	3.55	3.50	2.60
£2,000 - £4,999	3.67	3.52	3.17	3.12	2.20
£0 - £1,999	3.28	3.13	2.77	2.72	1.80
Premier Account - paid monthly					
£100,000+	5.10	4.95	4.75	4.65	3.70
£25,000 - £99,999	4.71	4.56	4.36	4.26	3.30
£10,000 - £24,999	4.32	4.17	3.97	3.87	2.90
£5,000 - £9,999	3.93	3.78	3.58	3.48	2.50
£2,000 - £4,999	3.54	3.39	3.19	3.09	2.10
£0 - £1,999	3.15	3.00	2.80	2.70	1.70
Classic Account - paid monthly					
£100,000+	4.95	4.80	4.60	4.50	3.50
£25,000 - £99,999	4.56	4.41	4.21	4.11	3.10
£10,000 - £24,999	4.17	4.02	3.82	3.72	2.70
£5,000 - £9,999	3.78	3.63	3.43	3.33	2.30
£2,000 - £4,999	3.39	3.24	3.04	2.94	1.90
£0 - £1,999	3.00	2.85	2.65	2.55	1.50
Corporate Account - paid quarterly					
£100,000+	5.10	4.95	4.75	4.65	3.70
£25,000 - £99,999	4.71	4.56	4.36	4.26	3.30
£10,000 - £24,999	4.32	4.17	3.97	3.87	2.90
£5,000 - £9,999	3.93	3.78	3.58	3.48	2.50
£2,000 - £4,999	3.54	3.39	3.19	3.09	2.10
£0 - £1,999	3.15	3.00	2.80	2.70	1.70
Client Account - paid quarterly					
£25,000 - £99,999	4.71	4.56	4.36	4.26	3.30
£10,000 - £24,999	4.32	4.17	3.97	3.87	2.90
£5,000 - £9,999	3.93	3.78	3.58	3.48	2.50
£2,000 - £4,999	3.54	3.39	3.19	3.09	2.10
£0 - £1,999	3.15	3.00	2.80	2.70	1.70
Sovereign 30 - paid monthly					
£25,000 - £99,999	5.01	4.86	4.66	4.56	3.60
£10,000 - £24,999	4.62	4.47	4.27	4.17	3.20
£5,000 - £9,999	4.23	4.08	3.88	3.78	2.80
£2,000 - £4,999	3.84	3.69	3.49	3.39	2.40
£0 - £1,999	3.45	3.30	3.10	3.00	2.00
Asset 30 - paid monthly					
£100,000+	5.10	4.95	4.75	4.65	3.70
£25,000 - £99,999	4.71	4.56	4.36	4.26	3.30
£10,000 - £24,999	4.32	4.17	3.97	3.87	2.90
£5,000 - £9,999	3.93	3.78	3.58	3.48	2.50
£2,000 - £4,999	3.54	3.39	3.19	3.09	2.10
£0 - £1,999	3.15	3.00	2.80	2.70	1.70
Reserve Account - paid annually					
Variable	6.00	5.85	5.65	5.55	4.60
Fixed	5.00	4.85	4.65	4.55	3.60
Save & Prosper Investment Account - paid quarterly					
£100,000+	5.25	5.10	4.84	4.75	3.80
£25,000 - £99,999	4.84	4.69	4.38	4.30	3.40
£10,000 - £24,999	4.45	4.30	4.00	3.92	3.00
£5,000 - £9,999	4.06	3.91	3.55	3.50	2.60
£2,000 - £4,999	3.67	3.52	3.17	3.12	2.20
£0 - £1,999	3.28	3.13	2.77	2.72	1.80
Save & Prosper Reward 30 - paid monthly					
£25,000 - £99,999	5.01	4.86	4.66	4.56	3.60
£10,000 - £24,999	4.62	4.47	4.27	4.17	3.20
£5,000 - £9,999	4.23	4.08	3.88	3.78	2.80
£2,000 - £4,999	3.84	3.69	3.49	3.39	2.40
£0 - £1,999	3.45	3.30	3.10	3.00	2.00
Save & Prosper Fast-Track ISA - paid monthly					
£25,000 - £99,999	5.01	4.86	4.66	4.56	3.60
£10,000 - £24,999	4.62	4.47	4.27	4.17	3.20
£5,000 - £9,999	4.23	4.08	3.88	3.78	2.80
£2,000 - £4,999	3.84	3.69	3.49	3.39	2.40
£0 - £1,999	3.45	3.30	3.10	3.00	2.00
ACCOUNTS NO LONGER OFFERED TO NEW DEPOSITORS					
Deposit Account	3.80	3.75	3.28	3.25	2.60
£5,000 - £9,999	3.29	3.24	2.78	2.75	2.20
£0 - £4,999	1.15	1.10	0.65	0.65	0.50
Higher Rate Deposit Account	4.53	4.45	4.01	3.95	3.15
£100,000 - £49,999	4.27	4.20	3.75	3.70	2.95
£25,000 - £9,999	3.75	3.70	3.25	3.20	2.50
£5,000 - £4,999	2.47	2.45	1.91	1.90	1.50
£0 - £499	0.80	0.80	0.00	0.00	0.00

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US anger as Turkey welcomes Aziz

TO WASHINGTON'S anger, Turkey is to break ranks with Nato allies as it welcomes Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister, for bilateral talks today. Details of who Mr Aziz will meet, and exactly what is on his agenda, remained undisclosed yesterday, but Turkey is in the process of renewing its support for American policy on Iraq.

BY JUSTIN HUGGLER
in Istanbul

The US State Department last week. Turkey, an important American ally in the Middle East, and the only Nato member bordering Iraq, is a vital link in US strategy. American and British jets patrolling the no-fly zone over Northern Iraq mount their flights from Turkey's Incirlik airbase. Mr Aziz said he would ask Ankara to withdraw per-

mission for patrols to use the base. Turkish opposition parties have also been calling on the government to put Incirlik back under full Turkish control. But the Turkish Foreign Minister, Ismail Cem, insisted on Friday that the flights would continue. "It is a decision made by parliament and only the parliament can change it," he said. "The government cannot do anything about it and does not have that intention in any case." Turkey's parliament,

which approved the use of the airbase for the patrols until the end of June, has been dissolved ahead of April elections. Turkey's motive in welcoming Mr Aziz is unclear. The official Iraqi News Agency claims Ankara invited Mr Aziz. The Turkish Foreign Ministry says Iraq initiated the visit. "We have to live in this region," said a Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman. "We have suffered a lot since the Gulf War. We want peace and stability on our

borders." Turkey's administration has been deeply critical of US foreign policy on Iraq. Bulent Ecevit, who became Prime Minister last month, said recently that American attacks on Iraq "seem to have gone too far". Mr Ecevit ordered the review of Turkish support for Washington's Iraq policy. Iraq has attacked Turkey for that support, calling it a "hideout of evil". Last month, at Ankara's request, US Patriot missiles were installed at In-

cirlik to defend against possible Iraqi missile attacks. Among Mr Ecevit's chief concerns is the possibility that American support for Iraqi opposition groups may lead to the break-up of Iraq, and the formulation of a Kurdish state in the north of the country. Ankara fears that would provide Turkey's own Kurdish rebels, the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), with a base to launch attacks on Turkey. "I don't know if the United

States wants to form a Kurdish state," Mr Ecevit has said. "But its policy, the steps it has taken, are going in that direction." Economics may be another factor. Before the 1991 Gulf War, Iraq was a major trading partner for Turkey, and Turkey has suffered economically as a result of UN sanctions on Iraq. Turkey claims the sanctions have cost it \$30bn since 1991. Some trade returned under the UN oil-for-food deal, which allows Iraq to sell \$5.2bn of oil

every six months to buy essential goods. But Iraq was reported to have diverted most of this trade to Jordan and Syria. Mr Ecevit insisted that the talks with Mr Aziz would not be secret and details would be made public. The British ambassador in Moscow is investigating reports that Russia has breached UN sanctions by agreeing to overhaul and upgrade Iraq's MiG fighters and air defences.

Afghan tribes take on the Rambo myth

WHEN THE Hollywood moguls dedicated *Rambo III* - in which Sylvester Stallone single-handedly liberates most of Afghanistan from the Soviet Union - to the country's "brave people", they felt they were celebrating men who had fought a just war against an evil enemy. Such certainty would be unlikely now.

BY JASON BURKE
in Islamabad

Sunni countries. The opposition forces represent Afghanistan's ethnic minorities - Tajiks, Uzbeks and the Mongol-descended Hazaras - who receive support from Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. They are largely Shia Muslims and are aided by Iran - a predominantly Shia country.

Ten years ago today, the last Soviet tanks clattered out of Afghanistan and the West celebrated Communism's greatest defeat. Within a few years the Soviet regime would collapse and the Cold War would be officially over.

All the central Asian republics, and Moscow, are worried that the Taliban harbour expansionist ambitions. But money may be the real key to the continuing conflict. For several years a number of multinational conglomerates have wanted to build a pipeline from the oilfields around the Caspian Sea through Afghanistan to Pakistan and the Arabian Sea. The financial benefits to the states involved are potentially huge. One of the main reasons the Pakistanis have supported the Taliban has been the belief that the militia are the only people capable of maintaining security along the pipeline route.

Yet Afghanistan is still racked with bitter conflict. Although its 20 million people survived nearly two decades on the front line of the Cold War, they are now blighted with every conceivable stress and strain that tears at the fabric of the modern world. Ethnicity, oil, religious sectarianism, Islamic extremism, terrorism, drugs or simply territory - you name it, in Afghanistan somebody is fighting over it.

In this morass, the Americans have been stumbling in a way Rambo did not. Initially seeing the Taliban as a way of countering Iran's interests they have now turned against them. Not only have the Taliban failed to halt the massive production of opium and heroin but they have been sheltering a substantial number of active terrorists. The 75 cruise missiles that were fired into the east of the country last year achieved nothing and American interests in the region look stymied.

Unhappily, most of the fighters are sponsored by countries who are pursuing their own interests on Afghan soil. At least six countries are known to be supplying munitions or money to the factions who fill the mountain valleys and the desert plains with the sound of fire from rockets and Kalashnikovs. At least a dozen other countries are indirectly involved.

There are probably fewer than 50,000 armed men in Afghanistan. However, because of them, and their puppetmasters, the whole country is condemned to poverty, anarchy and a grim cycle of destruction.

The unholly broth of Afghan politics has three main ingredients: ethnic strife, religious animosity and crude economics.

The Taliban, the hardline Islamic militia that now control 80 per cent of the country, largely represent the majority Pashtun tribes. They are Sunni Muslims and receive support from Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, both



Ultra-orthodox Jews invade a building site for a "mass prayer" in protest against alleged religious persecution by Israel's Supreme Court

Reuters

100,000 Orthodox Jews oppose rule of law

MORE THAN 100,000 ultra-Orthodox Jews rallied at the entrance to Jerusalem yesterday in the most strident challenge to the rule of law in Israel's 50-year history.

BY ERIC SILVER
in Jerusalem

Supreme Court to end its persecution of Judaism and the great rabbis. Rabbi Menachem Porush, the 83-year-old leader of the Agudat Yisrael party, told reporters.

Their target was the liberal Supreme Court, which has incensed them with rulings in favour of the more flexible Reform Judaism and against the wholesale exemption of yeshiva seminarians from military conscription.

Their campaign has put the Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, on the spot. The ultra-Orthodox represent barely 8 per cent of the electorate, but he needs their votes to win the

May elections. They backed him en masse in 1996.

Walking a tightrope, he said: "I denounce harsh, insulting statements against the Supreme Court and the justices. At the same time, I can't accept generalisations branding an entire segment of the population as marginal."

He called for dialogue and reconciliation, but there was little of either around yesterday. In language reminiscent of the incitement that preceded

the assassination of the Labour Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin three years ago, other rabbis last week accused the Chief Justice, Aharon Barak, of anti-semitism and of being an "enemy of the Jewish people".

Placards waved at yesterday's demonstration insisted: "There is no law above the law of the Torah." Others demanded an end to "the destruction of Judaism" and to the "dictatorship" of the courts.

Responding to appeals for restraint from President Ezer Weizman and Mr Netanyahu, the rabbis restricted themselves to a pray-in, with men and women separated as they would be in an Orthodox synagogue. The nearest to a call to battle was the ritual blowing of the ram's horn.

The Orthodox rally - and a smaller one in support of the court in a park a quarter of a mile away - dispersed peacefully. The police were deployed in force to keep them apart, but

in the end their main task was controlling the traffic.

Mr Netanyahu's Justice Minister, Tzahi Hanegbi, joined the secular demonstration, warning against a "threatening cloud" hanging over tolerance. Yitzhak Rabin's daughter, Dalia, noted that her father was murdered by a man who felt he did not have to obey the law. "Every Israeli citizen," she said, "should rise against any party that challenges the basis of democracy, which is the courts."



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MOST CHINESE notions of simple, elegant design disappeared in the mid-17th century with the Ming Dynasty, but a private revolution is under way inside Pekingers' homes. Western style gurus may sneer, but Peking is suddenly enthralled by colour-coordinated sofa coverings, laminated wooden flooring, matching sheets and curtains, and even schnapps glasses. China's emerging middle class has never seen anything like it. Ikea has hit Peking, and half a million visitors have rolled up to see for themselves in the past seven weeks. The Scandinavian furnishings group has opened its first store in the Chinese capital, bringing traffic to a standstill as up to 35,000 visitors turned up one Saturday to marvel at visions of flat-pack furniture and eat Swedish meatballs in the in-store cafe. "We've stayed here nearly two hours," said 25-year-old Gong Jiawen, who was taking a rest on some rafa chairs with her parents. Her 56-year-old father said: "It's interesting, it is simple, it is clean, a fresh feeling."

China's housing reform has stalled with the economic slowdown, but millions of families have already bought their own apartments over the past couple of years, in a privatisation similar to the Thatcher council house sell-off in the UK. And there is nothing like home ownership to transform the way Chinese people feel about their apartments. When the flats belonged to the factory or ministry, no one was interested in spending money on refitting the bathroom, but now that the work units have handed over the property deeds, interior decoration is all the rage. Tomorrow is Chinese New Year, the country's biggest annual holiday, and one that traditionally has involved clearing the home. As the Year of the Rabbit rings in, many families are indulging in much more than just the ritual sweep of the kitchen, preferring to rip out the whole thing and start again. Household fittings and furniture are now the desired items for the upwardly mobile. At Ikea, the schnapps glasses have sold out, presumably diverted for use with *maotai* rice wine. And furniture with hidden storage capacity or which folds away is proving a hit in a city where living space is cramped and crowded. "At home we do not have enough space, with six of us in just two bedrooms and a living room," explained Cui Zhonghui, a 47-year-old cook, as he climbed back down a ladder from a bunkbed unit suspended above a desk and office arrangement. "So this would be good at home."



Chinese drum dancers performing at the opening ceremony of a Spring Festival fair at the Temple of the Earth park in Peking yesterday, part of the celebrations surrounding the Lunar New Year, when the Chinese traditionally clear out their homes

Unexpected quick movers have included a large amount of baking ware. "I'd heard that Chinese people don't bake, but either the expatriate community have all their cupboards full of baking equipment, or else there are lots of Chinese starting to bake," said the store manager, Gordon Gustavsson. Favourite with the visitors are Ikea's complete room settings on the top floor, where one can find whole families sitting down on the sofas or inspecting the cupboards. Some customers actually bring out their jars of hot tea as they lounge about. "The exhibition is like a home," said Wang Shaokun, 28, a primary school teacher. Mr Gustavsson said some visitors want to copy whole set-up rooms as a job lot. "Many of the customers say, 'OK, I'll have one of those!'" In a straw poll conducted by *The Independent*, the kitchens and bathrooms proved the most popular.

With three times as many visitors some weeks as the store had anticipated, it is a bit overwhelming for the store manager. "Some days, all you see is a lot of people, and as a Scandinavian, I'm not that used to that amount of people! They are parking all over the place." The shop stopped all advertising before the formal January opening, because it could not cope with the crush. Zhu Chuandong, a 40-year-old computer expert who bought his apartment two years ago, said: "It brings to the

people a new lifestyle, it is different from the traditional Chinese consumption concepts." The restrained design is completely alien to China, where interior decoration usually involves bright colours, shiny gold and mirrors, a multitude of patterns, and even such special touches as fake Greek columns and plastic fruit. One woman who did not want to give her name was unsure: "The design and colour is a bit simple. I think the kitchen should be more decorative be-

sides being functional," she said. The most common request in the Ikea Suggestion Box in Peking is that the store introduce a home interior design service to take the anxiety out of choosing from the sleek new offerings. But so far Ikea has made just a single concession to local prejudices, with Peking the only one of its stores to sell chopsticks. Swedish-designed chopsticks. "No, just chopsticks," said Mr Gustavsson.

TERESA POOLE

Science delays the 21st century

BY TERESA POOLE

CHINA'S party-pooping scientists have decided the 21st century will begin on 1 January 2001. The decision was taken after a careful perusal of Webster's *New World Dictionary* and the Gregorian calendar, the state media announced at the weekend. Not mentioned was the six-year study by the China National Committee for Natural Scientific Terms, which more than two years ago decreed that the millennium should indeed start on 1 January 2000.

The country's decision to postpone the next century could well prove politically convenient. The country has already set 2000 as the deadline for wiping out poverty and iodine deficiency, but it is clear that even by its own measures, this will not be achieved in the next ten and a half months. Suddenly, the government can claim it really meant the end of 2000. But it is also just as well that Peking was not chosen for the 2000 summer Olympics as, back at the time of the bidding war, China repeatedly said the games would symbolise the mainland's emergence as a 21st-century world power.

Wang Jinxu, director of the Astronomy Committee of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, said "strong support" for his committee's decision had come from looking up the word "century" in Webster's. It read: "AD 1801 through AD 1900 is the 19th century AD," and was quoted on the front page of the *China Daily*. Should the 20th century be deemed to end on the stroke of 1 January 2000 after just 99 years, it would cause "a myriad of troubles which are not limited to calendar-setting institutes and keepers of historical records", the newspaper said.

The truth is that China has shown very little interest in millennium celebrations so far, whenever they take place. This is because its efforts are focused on hosting an extravaganza on 1 October 1999 to mark the 50th anniversary of the People's Republic - a date set in stone. For ordinary people, the traditional Chinese Lunar New Year is far more symbolic anyway, with the country this year already shutting down to welcome the Year of the Rabbit tomorrow.

The one anniversary China's leaders would dearly like to reschedule is this year's 10th commemoration of the 4 June 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown. Unfortunately for the government, not even the mighty brains at the Chinese Academy of Sciences can postpone that one.

Peking turns off neon for Mao's golden day

IN A THROWBACK to the days when Maoist China banned advertising as a symbol of bourgeois capitalism, Peking appears to be reviving the tradition of socialist purity. The central government has ordered the removal of all neon advertisements, advertising billboards and company logos from the heart of the city as part of a spiritual "clean-up" for this year's 50th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic, on 1 October. The ban covers Tiananmen

BY TERESA POOLE
in Peking

Square and the main central drag, the Avenue of Eternal Peace, and has prompted an angry response from China's nascent advertising industry and the companies that advertise at these prestigious locations. Most of these are foreign, and the advertisements range from Japanese electronic goods to XO cognac, Western brand-name clothes and even paint. China is already gearing up

for the massive celebration and propaganda blitz planned for 1 October, and the thought of so many glaring foreign corporate names as the backdrop for this patriotic jamboree clearly upset the publicity cadres. It was at Tiananmen Gate on 1 October 1949 that Chairman Mao proclaimed that the Chinese people had "stood up", but if the Great Helmsman were to stand on the same spot today, he would gaze out upon a vista enlivened by McDonald's and Kentucky Fried Chicken signs.

The veto seems bound to affect about 300 advertising hoardings and 500 buildings, many of which earn substantial revenues from hosting adverts or neon signs. "This spells a huge loss for our company," said Han Fenglai at the Peking Olympics Advertisement company (nothing to do with the Games), the agency that handles many of the advertisements along the boulevard, which is known as Chang'an Avenue in Chinese. One of the casualties is China's largest

hoarding, a vast advertisement for Kodak China that sits atop the Peking Postal Service Management Bureau. It is when such central government edicts are handed down that companies discover their contracts suddenly seem to have no legal force. Many foreign advertisers, who have spent money building the large advertisements and arranging the sites, will have no chance of appeal even though the contracts they signed have not yet expired.

The Avenue of Eternal Peace is known around the world from the picture of the man standing defiant in front of a tank during the June 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown. Since then the wide boulevard has been transformed by China's economic boom, with huge buildings emerging on both sides. The sprouting of the advertisements and neon signs has mostly happened in the past four years. When the offending signs have all been removed, non-commercial neon lights will be

installed to illuminate the buildings. No one has yet said when the advertisements will be allowed back. The clean-up will extend to more than just ridding the scene of adverts. Fountains and statues, new rubbish bins, brighter streetlights and traffic signals for the blind will all be in place by October. The central section will be repaved with granite paving stones, just like Tiananmen Square itself, which is also undergoing a makeover for the anniversary.

Ethiopia starts port offensive

ETHIOPIAN FORCES unleashed a new offensive yesterday on the front near Assab Port, dashing hopes that the recent lull in fighting would encourage renewed diplomatic efforts this week.

The offensive began early in the morning, using planes and helicopter gunships to bombard Eritrean positions about 70 kilometres west of the port city. Heavy shelling reportedly continued throughout the day.

An Mi-24 helicopter was shot down by Eritrean forces at 9am, said the Eritrean government. The presidential adviser Yemane Gebremeskel said identity cards from the dead crew had been retrieved. He said no troop movements had been reported, but described the attack as an attempt

BY LUCY HANNAN
in Asmara

to "soften the front line" for further attack.

The Red Sea port of Assab is crucial to land-locked Ethiopia - which, until the conflict began last May, provided 90 per cent of all transactions in the port. When Eritrea won independence from Ethiopia in 1993, Ethiopia secured access to the Red Sea through bilateral agreement and co-operation.

Since the conflict, Ethiopia has resorted to using the port of neighbouring Djibouti.

Unlike the border dispute over the Badme triangle - which triggered the conflict - there is no territorial claim over Assab by Ethiopia.

IN BRIEF

Rushdie fatwah reaffirmed

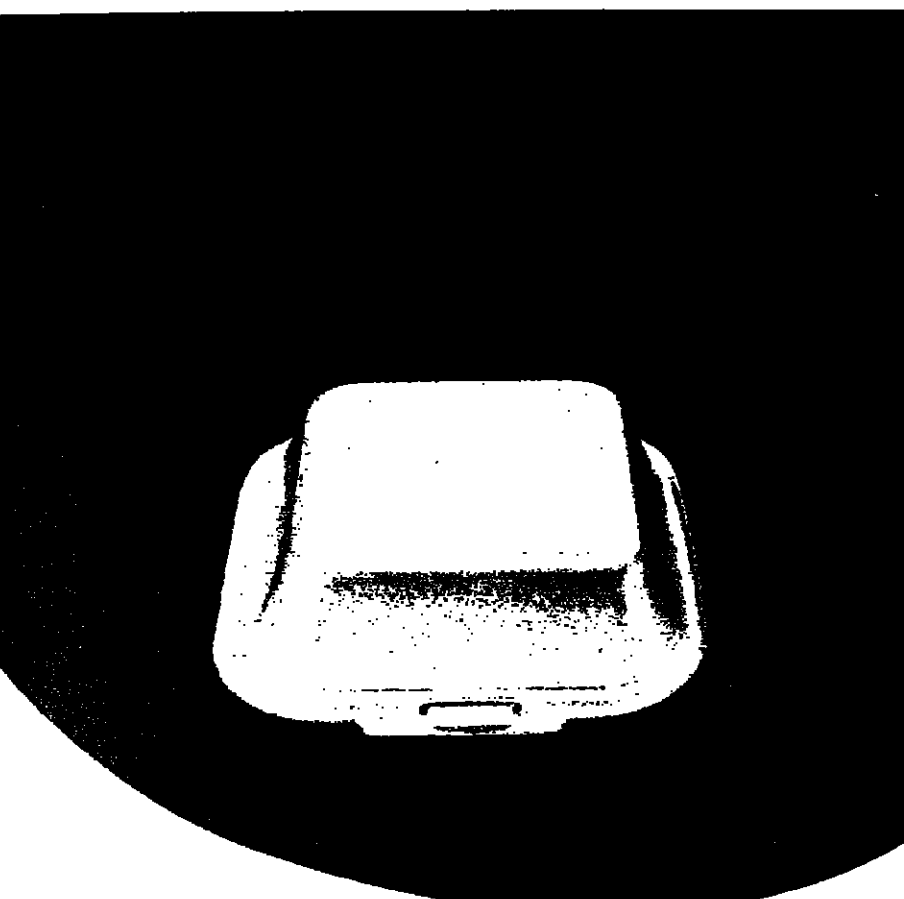
IRANIAN HARDLINERS used the 10th anniversary of the death order against the British writer Salman Rushdie on Saturday to reaffirm their intention to carry out the sentence for blasphemy, despite a diplomatic deal designed to paper over the affair.

Freetown atrocities denied

THE WEST African intervention force in Sierra Leone known as Ecomog yesterday denied a UN report's charges of involvement in atrocities in Freetown last month, but suggested its civilian militia allies may have carried out summary executions.

Chechen rebels in 'state of alert'

A PROMINENT Chechen rebel commander put his soldiers on a state of alert yesterday, the Interfax news agency reported. The statement from Salman Raduyev followed the Chechen President Aslan Maskhadov's accusation on Saturday that a coup was being plotted.



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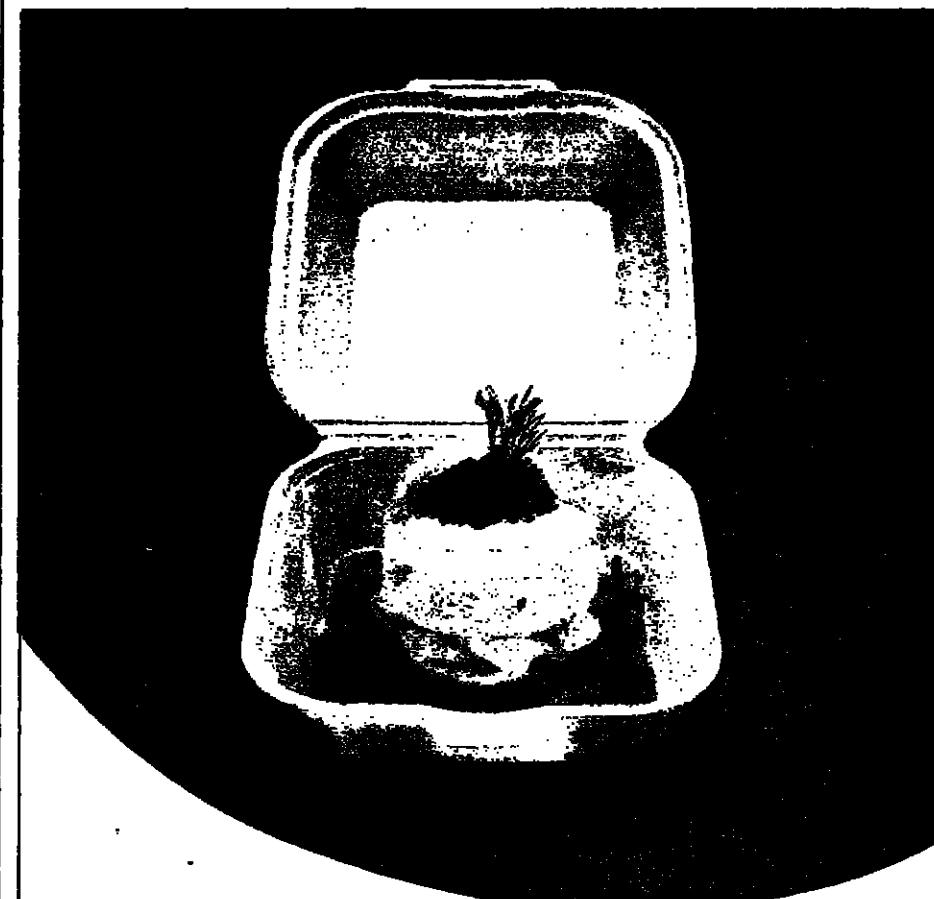
its rivals for quality, it beats them for speed. EPSON have pioneered Variable-Sized-Droplet Technology which actually increases print speed. Using different sized dots on the same page and line, the printer can create incredible detail with small dots while covering simple areas quickly with larger ones. It's all

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Central banks are missing the point

FRUSTRATION IS mounting inside the United States Treasury Department. For several years, the US has been the only locomotive for global GDP growth. Recently, however, the US balance of payments position has started to look dangerous. As a result, the US authorities have quite justifiably increased the pressure on Europe and Japan to accept more of the burden of sustaining world growth.

So far, this seems to have fallen on entirely deaf ears at the European Central Bank, which unaccountably seems to believe that 2 per cent GDP growth is perfectly adequate, at least until they can persuade European politicians to introduce new supply-side reforms. Actually, they should be setting themselves an ambitious GDP growth target of 3 to 4 per cent annum in the next two years, in exchange for more labour market reform.

The current stand-off between politicians and central bankers in Europe about who should be responsible for reducing unemployment is a truly depressing event, and the UK needs to be certain that this stand-off has been overcome before seriously contemplating EMU membership. Such an impasse between the government and the central bank has not, and would not, happen here.

With the continental Europeans determined to continue examining their own navels, American attention has turned back to the Far East. In Japan, there is an even more



GAVYN DAVIES

In Japan, there is a more compelling case than in Europe for measures to stimulate demand

compelling case than in Europe for urgent measures to stimulate demand, but yet again the Japanese authorities somehow seem to have missed this central point, and have instead become embroiled in an arcane dispute about the nature of the central bank balance sheet. The intellectual errors being made inside the Bank of Japan (the BoJ) on this subject need to be overcome before there is much hope of redemption for the wider economy.

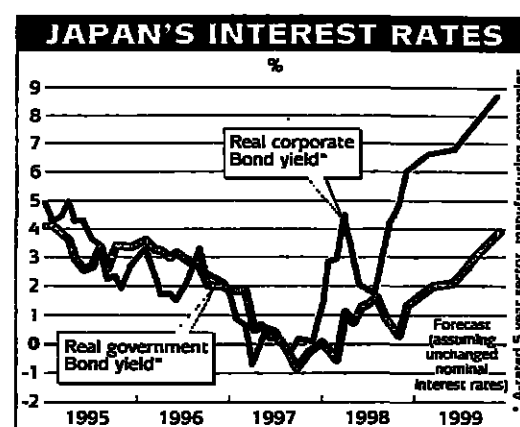
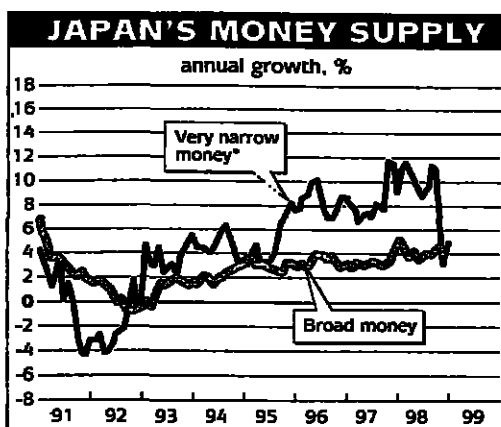
The basic problem for Japan during the 1990s has been a shortage of demand. Under normal circumstances, this is an easy problem to fix, simply by cutting interest rates, reducing taxation and stimulating government spending.

The Japanese authorities have

done all these things repeatedly during the 1990s, but they have never done them with sufficient vigour to overcome the powerful deflationary forces in the system. Numerous fiscal packages have stabilised the economy for short periods, but they have never succeeded in turning around the downward momentum in private expenditure (especially investment spending).

Because of these unsuccessful efforts to prop up private demand through fiscal stimulus, the quality of the government's balance sheet has been rapidly degraded. The ratio of gross public debt to GDP is now exactly 100 per cent, and is rising at an explosive rate of 10 per cent points per annum. Such an explosion in public debt is unmatched in any of the crisis emerging economies, including even Brazil and Russia.

This type of explosion in public debt would normally be expected to lead to much higher real interest rates as the risk of government default starts to rise. Until the end of last year, the Japanese authorities prevented this from occurring by using public entities like the postal savings system to purchase about 75 per cent of the new bonds issued by the government. But this year, they have announced that the public sector will purchase only about 25 per cent of new government bonds, so the supply/demand balance in the bond market has sharply deteriorated. The result has been that the yield on government



bonds has risen from about 0.7 per cent to 2.0 per cent.

This may not sound too bad but, because price inflation is negative, it means that the real rate of interest facing the government is likely to exceed 4 per cent later this year. More seriously, the real rate of interest on corporate bonds already exceeds 6 per cent, implying that the burden of corporate debt, which is now over 190 per cent of GDP, could also start to explode. Clearly, this could turn into a very nasty spiral, in which high real interest rates lead to negative GDP debt ratios rise further, "default" premiums rise in the bond market, and real rates rise yet further. If this were allowed to happen, the economy could implode.

The most obvious way out of this dilemma is to use the only remaining balance sheet in the econ-

omy which is still available to solve the problem with the balance sheet of the central bank. The BoJ has already been a large-scale purchaser of government bonds in the past several years, though it has always "sterilised" these operations by selling bills back into the market.

Recently, it has scaled back these operations for two reasons. First, it is worried about the rate of increase in its overall balance sheet, which had been growing at annual rates of about 40 per cent, but is now growing at only 15 to 20 per cent. This is why narrow money growth has slowed sharply. Second, it is worried about both the "liquidity" and the creditworthiness of its assets (i.e. long-dated government bonds and short-dated corporate debt). These concerns are now blocking the BoJ from taking the necessary steps to ease money-

policy. In fact, they are forcing the central bank to allow an entirely perverse tightening in monetary conditions as bond yields rise.

Martin Brookes of Goldman Sachs has recently written a fascinating study of "The Anatomy of the BoJ's Balance Sheet", arguing that both of these concerns are completely misplaced. The key point to recognise is that the central bank is the ultimate source of liquidity in the economy, so it is by definition impossible for it to become "illiquid". It is a fallacy to worry about the composition of its asset base as if it were a private sector commercial bank - if its assets become illiquid, or subject to credit downgrades, the BoJ can in the last resort always choose to increase the issuance of banknotes.

The ultimate constraint on the ability of a central bank to create liq-

uidity is, of course, the fear that this might create inflation. For most central banks, this is a very genuine fear, so there is every reason for an "orthodox" approach to the creation of money to finance government deficits. But Japan today is the exception. It is facing deflation, not inflation. As even the most stringent monetarist (including Milton Friedman himself) will instantly confirm, the central bank in such circumstances has the right, in fact the duty, to take direct action to expand the money supply - either by purchasing government bonds in the secondary market, or even directly financing a government deficit by printing money.

So far, despite mounting pressure from LDP politicians, the BoJ has steadfastly set its face against such action, and as a result is now watching the economy sink towards a worsening deflationary spiral. If the BoJ policy board is so stuck in pseudo-orthodox thinking that it fails to realise this, why does it not set itself an inflation target of zero for the next two years? Surely no sane central banker could argue that such a target would lack toughness or credibility. But in order to hit a zero inflation target, the BoJ might well have to print money sooner or later.

Central bankers do not like taking risks. Usually, this means that they prefer doing nothing to taking decisive action. But in Japan today, the risk of doing nothing is the greatest risk of all.

Anti-smoking aid to boost Bioglan US and UK meet to break 'open skies' stalemate

SMOKERS WHO want to quit will soon be able to "sniff" their daily nicotine dose thanks to a revolutionary product developed by Bioglan, a recently-floated pharmaceutical company.

The "nicotine sniffer" - a nasal spray - promises to become the latest weapon in millions of people's daily struggle to give up smoking.

The device, currently being developed by the Hertfordshire-based company, uses a burst of highly-pressurised gas to deliver a nicotine dose into the nose.

According to Terry Sadler, the chief executive, the sniffer is more effective than traditional methods such as nicotine patch-

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

es because the sprayed liquid is absorbed by the mucosa in the nose and gets directly into the bloodstream.

Bioglan, which came to the market in December with a £200m flotation, is planning to launch the product in the next 18 months. Mr Sadler believes the sniffer could become a powerful competitor to patches and other therapies aimed at the nine million Britons who try to give up smoking every year.

Bioglan is in talks with a number of pharmaceutical companies who want to buy the rights to the sniffer, Mr Sadler

said. The market for aids to quit smoking has boomed over the past few years as people and governments have become more health-conscious.

It is estimated that the 1.1bn smokers across the world spend \$500m (£312m) a year on nicotine replacement therapies. In Britain, almost three-quarters of the 13m adult smokers say they would like to stop.

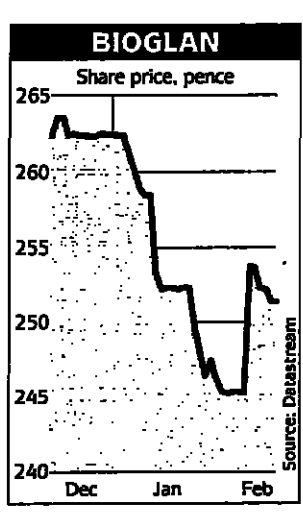
The Government has recently launched an anti-smoking campaign, highlighting the huge social and economic cost of the habit.

According to Government figures, more than 120,000 people a year die from smoking,

with hundreds more killed by passive smoking. The habit costs the NHS £1.7bn each year and the Government believes the problem could get worse as more and more young people take up smoking.

The sniffer is a departure from Bioglan's traditional markets. The group specialises in dermatology and last year boosted its portfolio of skin-care drugs with the £16m purchase of a batch of products from the pharmaceutical giant Zeneca.

The company is believed to be looking at expanding its portfolio of 50 products with a US acquisition.



THE BRITISH and United States governments are to hold "talks about talks" this week in an attempt to diffuse the simmering row over flights between the two countries.

Transport officials will meet on Thursday and Friday but no airlines will be present.

Airlines are eager for the two sides to sign an "open skies" agreement that would allow greater competition to the US from Heathrow. At present only two airlines from each side - BA and Virgin and American Airlines and United - can operate that route.

BY PHILIP THORNTON
Transport Correspondent

The last talks ended abruptly in October when the American delegation stormed out. This stymied BA's hopes of cementing its alliance with American Airlines.

A spokesman from the British Department of Transport said the Government had kept open "informal channels of communication" after the talks collapsed but said that neither side had made any concessions.

Britain is concerned that

opening the door to a range of US carriers could spark a price war, an attitude which the Americans see as harmful.

"These are exploratory talks to see if there is ground from which to move on," said the DOT spokesman.

The UK delegation will be led by Tony Baker, director of international aviation negotiation.

Analysts expect that any deal would be phased in over four to five years.

British Midland has applied for licences to run 10 routes to the US.

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Taking the private line

News Analysis:
The equity market is failing to meet the needs of many of the UK's smaller companies

By Lea Paterson

LAST WEEK, Rebus, a computer services group trading in the FTSE SmallCap index, decided to go private. Announcing details of an agreed £172m takeover by two US venture capitalists, Peter Presland, the Rebus chief executive, argued that the stock market simply wasn't interested in smaller companies.

Mr Presland isn't alone in his views. A recent study by the Centre of Management Buy-out Research at Nottingham University found the number of public to private deals more than quadrupled in 1998. All the evidence suggests that this trend is set to continue – the equity markets just aren't meeting the needs of many of the UK's smaller quoted companies.

"There is a mass of smaller public companies who are frustrated," said Chris Ward, head of the corporate finance advisory group at Deloitte & Touche. "There is a dwindling number of fund managers focused on the smaller end of the market."

For the larger institutional fund manager, investing in small-to-mid cap stocks can be uneconomical. Many are not tracked by City analysts, meaning it can be expensive and time-consuming to pull together company information. Institutional fund managers also find it more efficient to invest large blocks of cash in a single company, rather than putting in a couple of million pounds here and there.

But if you trade in £100m blocks in the small to mid cap index, you end up owning the entire share capital of companies before you know it, something that does not appeal to your run-



Christies, the auctioneer, came under the hammer itself in June last year when it was involved in one of the UK's biggest public to private deals

of-the-mill fund manager. These problems have always dogged small-to-mid cap stocks, and don't seem to have caused them major difficulties up until now. So what's changed?

One factor, according to Mr Ward, is the new European currency. He said: "It's been exacerbated by the euro – a number of larger fund managers have been rebasing their portfolios and need to get the correct weighting of European stocks." Because liquidity – or the ease with which a security can be sold – is valued above all else in the world's capital markets, the exit of a few big players can spark a downward spiral. A few big players exit – the market becomes less liquid. A few more players exit – the market becomes even less liquid, and before you know it things have dried up altogether.

Enter the venture capitalists. These specialist firms are always on the look out for new investments. They are well-suited to dealing with smaller companies, tending to favour medium to long-term investments and

active management of their portfolio. Many can hardly believe their luck at the valuations currently being put on smaller quoted companies by the UK stock market.

"With the low value being placed by the stock market on small cap companies, the trend towards public to private deals can only increase," said Anthony Fawcett, head of acquisition finance at Barclays. "There is more opportunity in this area than there has been for some time," said Ed McKinley, partner at Warburg, Pincus, one of the

two US venture capital groups which plan to take over Rebus. Going private is not the only solution for those smaller quoted companies which are struggling to raise capital cheaply on the equity markets. As Mr McKinley explained: "You can also bring to a public company that does not have the liquidity requirements of some of the institutions, and that shares the goals of the company's board."

The difficulty with involving venture capitalists – often the obvious candidates for public-to-private takeovers or for stumping up the cash for a long-term company stake – is that it means surrendering some degree of management control. However, there may be another answer – the bond market.

The same week that Rebus decided it had had enough of the equity market, Bridton Estate, a property developer in the FTSE 250, made its first unsecured bond issue. The result? An out-and-out success, according to Frank Kennedy, executive director of debt capital markets at Warburg Dillon Read, which acted with HSBC as joint book-runner for the issue.

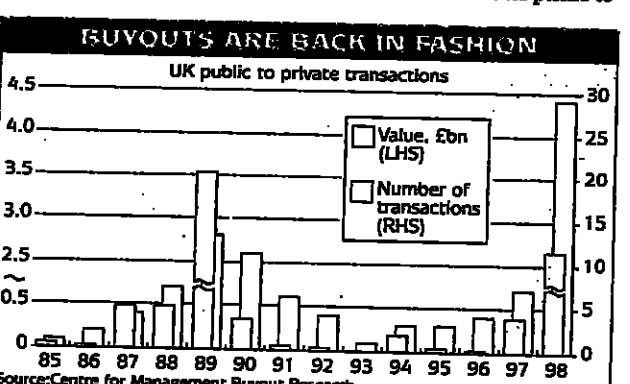
Mr Kennedy explained: "The bond markets are in a very different state to the equity markets. There is a very strong appetite for corporate bonds."

There are numerous reasons for this – including strong investor demand for corporate bond PEFs and the desire of fund managers for higher yield from their fixed income portfolio. What's more, most sterling corporate bonds tend to be issued in Eurobond form. Unlike the equity market for small and mid cap stocks, the Eurobond market is highly liquid. "We'll see continued strong demand from institutions and a range of new names coming to the market," predicted Mr Kennedy.

One difficulty with corporate bonds – particularly those issued by smaller, less well-known companies – is that investor demand tends to dry up completely at times of market uncertainty. Last autumn, for example, investors shunned all sorts of high-yield offerings amid the financial market chaos triggered by the Russian debt default.

Moreover, corporate bonds are simply not suitable for the smallest quoted companies, which are unable to offer sufficient quality paper to attract the big investors. For some of these companies, therefore, it really does seem that the financial markets may have failed.

It is when markets fail that governments have a role to play. Introducing investment tax reliefs for a wide range of smaller quoted companies may not be a bad place to start.



WHAT THE PAPERS SAID

A ROUND-UP OF SUNDAY BUSINESS STORIES

THE INDEPENDENT

Up to 5,000 jobs in the UK components sector could be lost as BMW transfers 10-15 per cent of its buying overseas, a leading supplier of parts to Rover, Delphi Automotive Systems, estimates. BMW and the Government are reported to be close to agreeing a package to rescue Rover's Longbridge plant.

Property developer Regalian is on a short list of two to redevelop the Chelsea Barracks, home of the Coldstream Guards. The Ministry of Defence will have to find an alternative home for the Guards and is considering buying the Battersea Power Station site.

The Chancellor, Gordon Brown, is lining up allies in Europe to continue opposing plans for a eurobond tax, following last week's vote in the European Parliament in favour of a withholding tax.

It will take two and a half to three years for high street banks and shops to introduce euro notes and coins if the UK decides to join the single currency, according to a report by the Treasury due out this month.

Businesses in the UK pay higher taxes, when measured as a proportion of national income, than any other top industrial country, according to an unpublished study by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

The Observer

The Government received offers from trade buyers for Railtrack at the time of its privatisation which could have raised £1bn more than the 1996 flotation netted. Nomura, Morgan Stanley and Babcock & Brown were all possible buyers.

National Power, the UK generator, is thinking about demerging its international business in order to boost its share price, after its plans to unlock shareholder value through a merger with the electricity and water group United Utilities fell through.

Harvey Nichols, the up-market retailer, is set to open a new store in Manchester's Arndale Centre.

LineOne, the Internet service provider, is to cut 46 of its 110 staff, as it battles against the success of Dixon's Freeserve service.

Two Vaux breweries, in Sunderland and Sheffield, are facing closure even if the planned management buy-out, led by the chairman's brother Frank Nicholson, goes ahead.

RJB Mining is considering buying mines overseas in order to reduce its dependency on the declining British coal industry.

Six Entertainment, a US-based promoter whose clients include the basketball player Michael Jordan and the pop star Billy Joel, may make a counter offer for Wembley. Enic, the sports investment group founded by Joe Lewis, has already made an informal £228m cash and shares bid, but Six is expected to table an all cash offer.

It would strengthen its position as a leading pubs and hotels group. Such a move could prompt Scottish & Newcastle to mount a counterbid.

National Power is planning to demerge its international arm, and could unveil a stock market float or partial sale of the business in 2000.

Mobile phone group Orange has linked up with Fujitsu of Japan and Cisco and Ascend in the US to trial technology for the next generation of mobile phones. The companies will also launch a pilot scheme in Bath and Bristol.

Diversified building materials group Polypipe is in talks with Avonside, the building services and distribution group, that could lead to bid valuing Avonside at £20m.

Chelsea Building Society has rejected a £400m takeover approach from a consortium headed by the former Chancellor, Lord Lawson of Blaby.

A report due out from the rail regulator next month will criticise Railtrack for failing to invest in modernisation and lacking targets for its investment programme. The Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott could force the track operator to cut the access fees it charges train companies.

Users of Dixon's free Internet service Freeserve will soon be able to pick up emails over the phone. The phone calls will be at a premium rate and Dixon's could collect up to 9p a minute.

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Whitbread is thinking about launching a £1.2bn bid for its smaller rival Greenalls, which

BP Amoco is set to cull more high-level jobs as the newly merged oil giant aims for a 40 per cent reduction in its corporate staff.

The Sunday Telegraph

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BP Amoco is set to cull more high-level jobs as the newly merged oil giant aims for a 40 per cent reduction in its corporate staff.



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THE INDEPENDENT

Pharmaceuticals and banks put FTSE in spotlight

WITH SEVEN Footsie members set to unveil figures this week - including BP Amoco, the biggest of them all - the blue-chip index will be in the spotlight. Footsie has been restless lately, ending a six-day losing streak with a good rally at the end of last week. Now the index is set to get a reality check, with two of its most prized sectors - banks and pharmaceuticals - dominating the results list.

In normal times, money-stackers and drug peddlers would have little in common apart from some heady ratings. But with consolidation sweeping the market, banks and pharmaceuticals are linked by the common thread of mergers, real and rumored.

Take Barclays, on the block tomorrow. Michael O'Neill, the new man in charge, will no doubt try and talk pre-tax profits, expected to have risen some 8 per cent to £1.8bn, in line with Barclays' semi-profits warning last November.

Russian provisions, say £150m, and general market conditions could also enter the conversation. But what analysts and dealers will really want to know is whether Martin Taylor's American replacement will live up to his reputation as a shrewd deal-maker and marry Barclays to one of its rivals.

The poor performance of Barclays Capital, its investment arm, could strengthen the hand of those in favour of selling it off. The unit is the weakest of the pack and should obfuscate the better-performing retail and corporate divisions.

Halifax, that other would-be consolidator, reports on Thursday. The shares have lost 15 per cent of their value since a possible link-up with Prudential went cold last year.

Stephen Kirk and Mark Eady at BT Alex Brown are shooting for a 2 per cent rise in profits to £1.67bn but are no fans of the Yorkshire lender.

"Halifax remains vulnerable to pressures in its core mortgage and savings markets, so forecasts retain a downside risk. We see scant chance for a deal at current valuation levels and so maintain our negative stance," they said.

Others are less bearish and point to Halifax's £3.6bn cash pile as a good omen for 1999. If no deal materialises, the recently appointed chief executive, James Crosby, could return part of it to shareholders through buybacks or special dividends.

STOCK MARKET WEEK

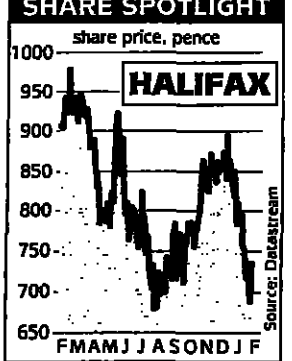


FRANCESCO GUERRERA

Fellow lenders Woolwich and Abbey National round off a busy week for bank watchers. The two were hit in their core mortgage market in the first half and should show some modest recovery in the latter part of the year.

Abbey's retail strength should help offset some of the slide in mortgage lending and analysts are going for an 18 per cent increase in pre-tax profit to £1.51bn. Watch out for a jump in bad debts from around £120m to £200m, mainly due to a rise in unsecured lending.

Woolwich's profits should also rise some 18 per cent to



£475m. More importantly, the bank could update investors on plans for its £935m excess capital, and a return of cash to shareholders could be on the cards.

Investors who do not like the banks' takeover scene should turn to drugs. Glaxo Wellcome, everyone's merger favourite, goes on the operating table on Thursday. After saying a thousand "not yet's" to the usual "Are you merging with SmithKline Beecham?" question, Sir Richard Sykes, the chairman, will unveil a modest fall in profits to around £2.6bn.

Strong sterling and the decline of the former blockbuster Zantac, the anti-ulcer treatment, will take their toll. However, this should be the last of the Zantac-affected results. In 1999, Glaxo has promised

double-digit sales growth and "significant" earnings rises. New products, led by the influenza drug Relenza, are looking good and, of course, there is always the chance of a tie-up with SmithKline Beecham to prop up the stock from time to time.

For a pharmaceutical merger which is almost certain to be consummated, look no further than Zeneca. The UK group reports on Wednesday, just a day before its shareholders are to vote on its £48m fusion with its Swedish rival Astra. The focus of the results will be the performance of new products such as the schizophrenia drug Seroquel and the asthma buster Accolate. The future of the combined entity hinges on these new drugs as both Zeneca and Astra are about to lose patent protection on a couple of blockbuster drugs.

Analysts predict a slight fall in pre-tax profits to around £1.06bn, with sales up some 6 per cent to £5.4bn. The market will also want to know about the impact of the devaluation of the Brazilian real on Zeneca's agrochemicals operations and whether the company is exposed to bad debts.

Staying with merged groups, BP Amoco, which accounts for some 6 per cent of the Footsie value, is expected to face intense scrutiny when it unveils fourth-quarter net income on Wednesday.

William Lowrie, the joint deputy chief executive, stepped down last Friday, sparking suggestions of boardroom tensions in the wake of the merger. The British part of the oil giant should have done better than most of its peers, although some nasty surprises could come from its Russian ventures.

But the really bleak numbers will come from Amoco, the US partner, which is said to have had a horrible fourth quarter. Overall, broker Merrill Lynch is expecting a net income of £803m, well down on the £1.5bn recorded in 1997.

The former Footsie member Rank is the most prominent among the undercard's offerings. The leisure group had a disastrous year, which included botching the video launch of *Titanic*, seeing its share price go the way of that famous ship and losing its chief executive Andrew Tear.

The City is now in wait-and-see mode. As the new boss Mike Smith does not arrive from Ladbroke until April, profits, due out on Thursday, should come in at around the £260m reported in 1997.



Bootie Call: The All Saints are being sued by a designer clothing company with the same name

Clothing company takes action against All Saints

ALL SAINTS, a company which makes designer clothes, is taking legal action against the popular girl band of the same name. The company wants to stop the band from selling clothes with the brand name "All Saints" on their upcoming world tour.

Stuart Trevor set up All Saints as a wholesale and retail clothing business five years ago in London, and registered the name as the company's trademark at the same time.

The pop group, consisting of Nicole Appleton, Natalie Appleton, Melanie Blatt and Shaznay Lewis, came together in 1997. The clothing company says that it tried to reach an agreement with the band's merchandising firm, De-lux, over use of the name last year but failed. Now the clothing company is seeking an injunction.

A VIOLINIST who used to appear under the name Bobby Valentini is claiming that he helped to write the pop song "Young at Heart", a hit for The Bluebells in 1983. The copyright to the song remains valuable, as the song enjoyed a revival five years ago after it was used in a car ad.

Robert Beckingham, of Tressilian Road, Brockley, London, has taken legal action in an attempt to get the courts to recognise his share of the copyright.

He has issued a writ against the two members of the band

WHO'S SUING WHOM JOHN WILLCOCK

who have always been credited with the song, Robert Hodgson and Siobhan Mair Stewart, of The Eurythmics.

Ms Stewart was a member of Bananarama in the 1970s, then joined the Scottish-based Bluebells, and subsequently formed Shakespears Sister in the 1980s. The song made Mr Hodgson and Ms Stewart a windfall of £50,000 each in 1993 after it was used in a TV ad for Volkswagen. Mr Beckingham is seeking damages against the two band members for breach of copyright. He is also suing four music companies, including Polygram, over the copyright to the song.

THE HIGH COURT in London is expected to rule this week possibly as early as today on the latest round between James Dyson, inventor of the Dyson bagless vacuum cleaner, and Electrolux, which objects to the

way he describes Electrolux's products in his advertising.

The row goes back many years and was prompted by Mr Dyson's claim in his ads that traditional vacuum cleaners suffer a 50 per cent drop in suction when their bags clog up.

Dyson and Electrolux went to court last December, and at the end of January Mr Justice Jonathan Parker ruled that Dyson Appliances had been guilty of "exaggerated and misleading" advertising claims. The judge stopped short, however, of ordering changes to the ads.

This month Electrolux launched another action, aimed at Dyson's use of kaolin powder in its testing of its vacuum cleaner. Electrolux claims that kaolin powder is "nothing like ordinary house dust" and grossly exaggerates the clogging effect of dust on its machines.

MORE THAN 600 investors in a property trust in Telford have taken legal action against the trust's joint sponsors after the properties owned by the trust fell in value from £30m to under £10m in just five years.

The Telford Trust Action Group is suing Johnson Fry and Richard Ellis after the two properties bought by the "Laser Richmond (Telford) Trust 1991/2" were revalued. The trust is an enterprise zone property trust set up in 1992 to buy the

Plaza Tower and Plaza Court in Telford.

The trust paid £30,244,000 for the buildings and more than 900 investors subscribed for units in the trust, for the same total. The properties were revalued in September 1997 by DTZ Debenham Thorpe, the chartered surveyor, at just £9,260,000.

The action group is claiming that the joint sponsors failed to take "reasonable care" to ensure that all the facts in the marketing material for the scheme were true and accurate. They are particularly angry about the prospectus, which they say encouraged higher-rate taxpayers to expect substantial tax benefits. In the event, they say, the unit values were so low that there was no tax benefit at all.

Brian Woodward, chairman of the action group, said the scheme was "highly speculative and grossly overpriced".

Both Johnson Fry and Richard Ellis are intending to defend themselves against the legal action. A spokeswoman for Johnson Fry said: "The price paid was based on advice provided to us by the valuers at the time, Grimley JR, Eve, in 1992."

The spokeswoman also denied the risks were not made clear to investors. "Enterprise trusts are known as a high risk venture, normally as a tax shelter. People would only invest in them after advice."

IN BRIEF

Murdoch deal off for Telecom Italia

TELECOM ITALIA has broken off talks to sell its pay-television unit Stream to Rupert Murdoch's News Corp Europe, the Italian phone company confirmed over the weekend. Recent speculation has centred on a tie-up between Murdoch and the French TV company Canal Plus, whose Telepiu pay-tv is the market leader in Italy.

Greek plane deal

THE GREEK government has decided to buy up to 80 Eurofighter Typhoon aircraft after 2005 in a deal worth up to £2.5bn. The defence minister also said that Greece would open talks as soon as possible with the Eurofighter consortium, comprising DaimlerChrysler Aerospace, British Aerospace, Cassa and Alenia, with a view to participating in the Eurofighter project.

Mercury fund

MERCURY HAS launched an institutional liquidity fund targeted at UK firms looking for alternatives to putting cash on deposit. The Dublin-based fund, which will invest in short-term money market instruments, has imported the concept of liquidity funds from the US. It estimates that FTSE 350 companies, excluding banks, are currently sitting on more than £55bn cash.

ITG in £7.65m buy

ITG GROUP, the Alternative Investment Market-quoted telecoms and computer sales group, yesterday bought Computers in Ireland Ltd, which trades under the names Computerland and Work Station, in a cash and share deal worth up to £7.65m. The payment is contingent on the Irish group achieving operating profits of £960,000 in the year to May 1999.

German G7 plan

GERMANY plans to propose the creation of a working group of finance ministers and central bank governors to study world financial markets at the G7 meeting in Bonn next weekend. Wolfgang Tilch, at the German finance ministry's international relations department, said the aim of the group would be to create a stable world financial system, and to weaken the effects of speculator activity.

Companies reporting and economics diary for the week ahead

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Group, Macro 4, Paterson Zochonis, Peter Black. Economics: Retail prices (Jan), PSNCR (Jan), Engineering turnover (Dec) Workspace Group. Finals: Barclays, Morgan Sindall, Serna Group, Interims: Compel	Group, Zeneca, Dobbies Garden,	Allied Irish Banks. Interims: Allied Carpets. Economics: Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee's minutes (Feb), Labour market statistics (Jan), ILO unemployment (Dec). Other: Life, offers second voluntary conversion	of euro Libor into Euribor contracts. THURSDAY Finals: Glaxo Wellcome, Halifax, Rank. Economics: Retail sales (Jan), Motor vehicle production (Jan), Building society figures (Jan), MBBG lending (Jan) M4	provisional (Jan) FRIDAY, 19 Finals: Abbey National. Economics: EU/GK consumer confidence (Feb) SATURDAY Economics: Group of Seven finance ministers meet in Bonn

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The 'Mary Celeste': old salt tells all

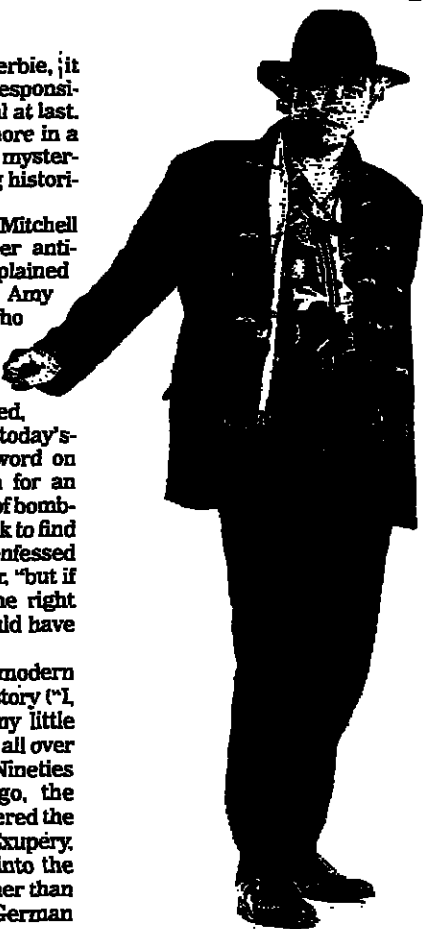
TEN YEARS after Lockerbie, it looks as if the bombers responsible might be standing trial at last. If so, it will be just one more in a recent rash of cleared-up mysteries, murders and puzzling historical incidents.

Only last week, Mr Tom Mitchell of Crowborough, a former anti-aircraft gunner, kindly explained the mysterious death of Amy Johnson for us. It was he who shot Ms Johnson out of the sky somewhere over the Thames Estuary in January 1931. She had, it seemed, failed to give the correct today's-colour-is-heliolope password on the radio and was taken for an enemy plane on the point of bombing London. "It was a shock to find out the pilot was Amy," confessed Mr Mitchell, 58 years later, "but if only she had given us the right colour of the day, she would have been all right."

So there you go. This modern version of the Cock Robin story ("I said the sparrow/ with my little arrow") is being mirrored all over the place. Maybe it's a Nineties thing. A few months ago, the French authorities discovered the airplane of Antoine de St Exupéry, who, it seemed, crashed into the drink near Marseilles rather than being shot down by a German fighter over the Mediterranean, as everyone had supposed. A few days ago, fresh evidence supposedly came to light about the sinking of the *Gaul* spy trawler in 1974, and the likelihood that it was holed in the bows after colliding with a British submarine.

All this setting the record straight is very gratifying, I'm sure. Can we expect to see a few more clarifications of historical puzzles before the end of the year?

"The *Mary Celeste* - it was a wild party that went horribly wrong," says Peter Stringfellow, 147. "To be honest, I've only just remembered. We're going back a bit, 1872. We'd hired the brig in New York for the evening, a dozen business associates, couple of swimwear models, top chef, jazz band, lots of Krug '69. There was dancing on deck, Moonlit quarts etcetera. I thought the captain had let things slide when we drifted into the Atlantic but he and the first mate were snorting a lot of Devil's dandruff with Sukie and Barbarella, so you had to make allowances. Nobody minded for the first couple of days, but then like a



JOHN WALSH
ON MONDAY

fool I asked chef if the dinner scallops were fresh, he came after us with the Sabatier and we had to leg it into the lifeboats. He threw himself off the poop in a fit of pique. After drifting for five days, we started eating each other, and I was the only one left. Are you sure I haven't mentioned all this before?"

"Arrah, all right then, 'twas me killed Shergar", admits Dinty O'Callaghan, 63, former Wicklow stable boy and recovering alcoholic. "It was a stupid idea. I was trying to re-create the famous ride from Ghent to Aix, as per the poet Browning, but the poor horse pegged out somewhere around Bruges and I had to shoot him. He

was knackered, frankly. All that galloping. The Vieux Marché Halal in Carcassonne paid me handsomely for the steaks, but I've always felt a bit guilty."

"Actually I shot President Kennedy", reveals myopic ornithologist and NRA veteran Wayne Rosenblatt III. "It was a ghastly mistake. I'd spotted a great crested bustard sitting on a 'Traffic Lanes Merge' sign in Dealey Plaza on 22 November 1963, and took a potshot with the old Lee Enfield 38. I'm real sorry for all the trouble I caused. And you know what? Damn thing flapped off just before I pulled the trigger."

"The Loch Ness Monster? I can explain everything," laughs celebrity photographer Patrick Lichfield. It was a *Twitter* photoshoot in the middle of nowhere, Scotland I think, and everything was just so flat. So we chopped half a dozen tyres in half and floated them on the lake as if they were humps sticking out the water. Hilarious. Suddenly the place was swarming with people carrying Box Brownies. We thought we might be done for lithering, so we slung the tyres into a truck and finally did the shoot in Arbroath. Lots of taffeta, if I remember rightly."

"If you must know, I was Jack the Ripper", confesses former England coach Glenn Hoddle, 40, last night. "And frankly, I was shocked by the almost uniformly negative tone adopted by the media in reporting my actions. 'Course, this was in a previous existence."

SO NOW, it seems, if something awful happens to you, you can take a whole industry to court and win millions. If you're dying of lung cancer after a lifetime of smoking, rather than curse your luck and your lack of will-power in not giving up, you can sue Rothmans and Philip Morris and win \$50m. So leave your

weeping relatives. If someone shoots you in the head in midtown New York (as happened with Steven Fox in 1992), you don't sue your assailant, you sue the gun manufacturers. Mr Fox wound up with a cool half-million, and a souvenir in the form of the bullet, which is still embedded in his head.

I hold no brief for gun-makers. It's rather good news that New Orleans is suing 15 manufacturers for flooding the southern states with lethal hardware (which will find its way into the northern cities through the usual dodgy channels). But I worry about the logic. If I drink myself into cirrhosis of the liver, can I really sue Gordon's and Seagram's and the Domaine de la Romanée-Conti for supplying the stuff that did me in? And if I try to hang myself and the rope breaks, can I sue Acme Twine Ltd for failing to endanger my life?

DID IT come as a huge surprise to you to hear that some of the people who appear on daytime TV talk shows are only, you know, acting? In the days when Robert Kilroy-Silk was questioning people about Coping With Scatena, you assumed they could just ring up the Scatena Society to find guests. When it (and Oprah and Ricky and Jerry and Vanessa and Trisha) graduated to more rarefied forms of human behaviour - say, people who like to have sex with monitor lizards while their grandparents look on - you wondered where on earth they could find the guests.

(Who do you ring? Advanced Bestiality And Elderly Voyeur Helpline?).

When it comes to featuring actual criminals on the show - the 'nuts and sluts', engaging in the kind of behaviour that Oprah Winfrey fears may end in onscreen homicide - well, you can only hope that they're bought-in actors. I watched a



Clockwise from top left: President John F Kennedy moments before his assassination; the Loch Ness 'monster'; pilot Amy Johnson; the spyship 'Gaul' and the flyer Antoine de St Exupéry

Jerry Springer show the other day, in which a prostitute was trying to leave her pimp, who was defended by another *poule de luz*, whose boyfriend was then brought on to comment. You should have seen these guys. You should have heard the script. The prostitute insisted a) she was a good girl, b) she had a heart of gold, c) she felt there was a better life to be had elsewhere, possibly as a primary school teacher.

The pimp was bald, swarthy, satanically bearded and raffishly ear-ringed. He sprawled in his chair as though aiming his crotch at the audience, and growled: "You work for me, bitch." The second girl cooed over the satanic one and claimed he was "misunderstood". Her boy-

friend arrived and took a swing at him with the words, "Why you ...". It was hammy beyond belief. It would have rung true only to people whose notions of real life came entirely from movies.

The bogus Vanessa "guests" are, it seems, hired from agencies for a measly £100 plus VAT. What worries me is that the same agency is now hiring actors to pretend to be "real people" in other areas of public life - the whole of the England First Eleven, for example.

GEE, DON'T Kids just Say The Darndest Things Dept: Last weekend, my son Max, 7, had his friend Alexander over to stay. A sweet kid, he displayed a

thoughtful strain over pizza at Saturday lunch.

"You know my dad?" he asked. Sure, I said. "Well, he's got all this wine. But it's off." Good Heavens, I said, what do you mean? "He's got bottles and bottles of wine, red wine and yellow wine," said Alex, "and it's all completely off and he just doesn't care," said the child, clearly worried by his father's relaxed approach to freshness.

But Alex, I said, are you some kind of connoisseur? "What's that?" he said. Are you some kind of expert? How can you tell it's all off? "All the bottles have got the sell-by date on the front," said Alex, "and most of them were just ages ago."

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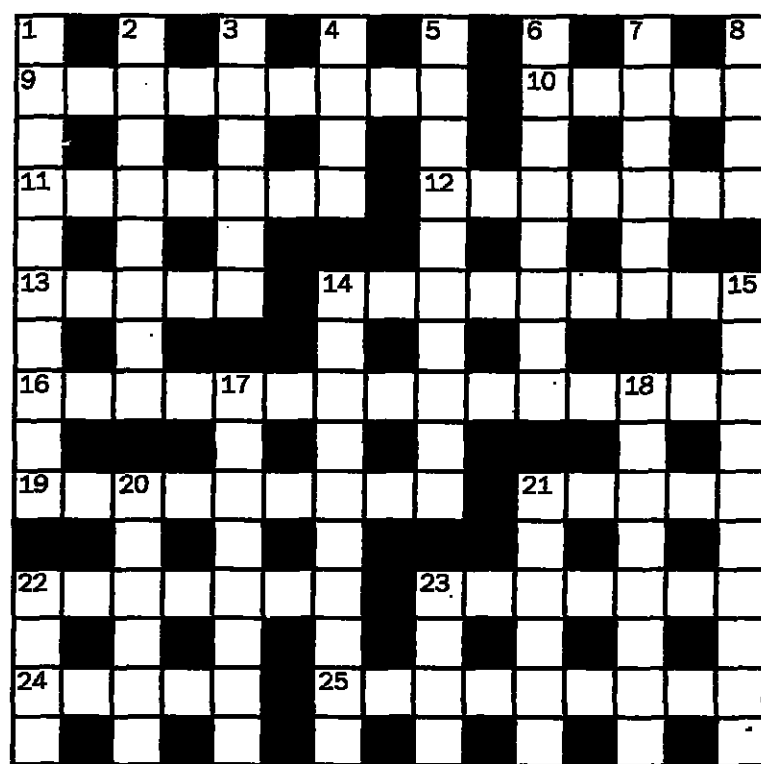
THE MONDAY CROSSWORD

No 3846 Monday 15 February

by Esau

- ACROSS**
- Appropriate search to occupy prophet (9)
 - Copy brought back in for perusal (5)
 - New development overlooking pub given enthusiastic reception (7)
 - Judge small racing car imported by motorists in foreign capital (7)
 - In a position to acquire a gong made of bronze (5)
 - Rare stamp's worth more than this, obviously (4,5)
 - In such an event, part of clutch may need replacing (3-3,5,4)
 - Attempt to involve schoolmaster (not head) in betrayal (9)
 - Speculate about being accepted - it may go to one's head (5)
 - By the way, threw out minor oath (7)
 - Become agitated, making a bet (7)
 - Deal dad a sudden blow, becoming a rock musician (5)
 - Mad movie hero is curt, told about long garment (4-5)

- DOWN**
- Start some trouble about new variety (10)
 - Bill will be paid after doing this up (8)
 - Prepare to start tape again, flushed about victory (6)
 - Shock produced by crazy set-up (4)
 - Flight path arranged to carry jet (10)
 - It may help to stop the Express



- reporting hiatus on the front (5,3)
- Turned up for a specified flight (6)
- Artist they finally accepted in part of India (4)
- Where people tend to bring up unrelated issues (6-4)
- Determined to succeed, make a speech for the voters (10)
- Scruffy clothing? (8)
- Parades drug experience in course of a take-off (8)
- Polish part of this area (6)
- Makes tea, when discussing result of blow (6)
- After plastering, use this to find dimensions (4)
- Sexually attractive, and so cunning! (4)

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هكذا من النمل

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Glenn Moore on why the FA made the right decision

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Brian Viner on Stuart Hall and an Everton knock-out

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Boxing's world title fight night

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Leeds defeat Wigan 28-18 in Rugby League's Challenge Cup



SPORT

15 February 1999



Andy Cole (left), Dwight Yorke (centre) and Denis Irwin celebrate Cole's winning goal for Manchester United in the FA Cup tie against Fulham at Old Trafford yesterday

Keegan ready for FA talks

BY GUY HODGSON

KEVIN KEEGAN yesterday gave the first hint that he is prepared to become England's manager in succession to Glenn Hoddle. At least he is prepared to talk to the Football Association, which makes him an on-the-record exception among club managers.

"If the FA come on an ask to talk to me and Mr Al Fayed gives them permission, I will talk to them, don't worry about that," Keegan said after Fulham had been beaten 1-0 by Manchester United in the fifth round of the FA Cup yesterday. "I've never said I wouldn't do that."

That would appear to open the door to an approach from Lancaster Gate, whereas up until now Keegan has slammed it shut at every available opportunity. Ever since Hoddle was sacked after making injudicious comments about the disabled, the Fulham manager has been at the forefront of people's minds as a replacement.

Last week the Keegan-for-England bandwagon built momentum and was not slowed by his insistence that he still has a job to do at Fulham, who head the Second Division. Now, maybe he can persuade to do the England job on a part-time basis until his commitments at Craven Cottage are finished.

The FA have said they wish to appoint someone this week so that the man in charge will have a lengthy settling-in period before next month's European Championship qualifier with Poland. Whether Keegan is that man is unknown, but some people within Lancaster Gate are known to admire his inspirational qualities.

Even yesterday Keegan insisted he would not walk out on Fulham and that he had not been approached by anyone at the FA, but he clearly expected that to change. If the approach and terms are right he could be persuaded to take the job.

"Despite the fact all the media and the bookies seem to know something is going to happen the man they are talking about is sat here, can look you in the face, and honestly say nobody from the FA has spoken to me," Keegan said. "I haven't had a phone call but judging from what has been happening, mainly in the media, I'm going to get one this week."

Whether he would be open to this approach is debatable because he gave out a mixed message.

"In one way it's a very big compliment, it's just the timing of it," he said. "I love Fulham football club very, very much and I really enjoy what is happening here, it's the only way I can work. Today has given me a boost, not the way we played, but because we have brought 8,500 people to Old Trafford to watch Fulham."

"On the one side you have got that emotion but on the other there is the pull that every single Englishman should have, which is to manage your country. Maybe I should jump at it but I'm not like that. If I say I want to stay at Fulham then people will say 'he has to say that', but if I say 'no comment' then it's also interpreted in a certain way. I don't really know how to comment."

"It's a strange situation somewhere has not only has no one seen fit to approach me but they have gone around telling people they will."

Cole ends Fulham's fight

BY GUY HODGSON

FOOTBALL'S FAIRY-tales differ from those of infancy in that they rarely have a happy ending and Second Division Fulham's run in the FA Cup came to a soggy conclusion at Old Trafford yesterday when Manchester United did enough, and only that, to reach the quarter-finals.

The game was billed as Kevin Keegan versus Alex Ferguson but it materialised into United against their own inner complacency. They scored through Andy Cole, they sat back and admired what they had done and then they let the tie deteriorate into a scrappy affair that was a million miles from the fantasy land of the City Ground eight days previously.

It was a mistake-ridden afternoon that only threatened to conform to the exciting traditions of the competition when John Salako had the goal gaping and at his mercy midway through the second half. The winger tried to make sure, hit his shot tentatively and allowed Peter Schmeichel to save.

At that moment the Cup's romance disappeared into the drizzly air.

"Cup football can be like that, very difficult," Ferguson said. "A lower division side come to Old Trafford and become inspired

which, apart from the suspended Roy Keane and Paul Scholes, was close to his first choice.

The only surprise was the omission of Jesper Blomqvist, but as Cole, Dwight Yorke and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer scored eight goals between them against Nottingham Forest last weekend you could hardly describe the side as weakened. Short of width maybe, weakened definitely not.

Fulham, for whom Steve Finnan and Chris Coleman were outstanding, ought to have been intimidated, but if they were they cloaked it well because they had the better of the opening exchanges and might have opened the scoring when Salako flashed a header past Schmeichel's post after 15 minutes.

The impression even then, though, was that United could win the tie if they stirred themselves sufficiently and after 26 minutes they duly took the lead.

Nicky Butt arced a long pass to the left, then Solskjaer drew his man and crossed to the near post, where Cole's care with his volley was rewarded with a deflection off a Fulham thigh into the corner of the net.

Within seconds Fulham could have equalised but Dirk Lehmann was dispossessed with a splendid blocking tackle from Gary Neville, and United embarked on a 15-minute spell which was the only time when the gulf in the clubs' League positions was truly laid bare.

David Beckham fired a free-kick inches wide, Maik Taylor dived low to his right to stop Yorke's drive after Solskjaer's quicksilver flick with his heel and Jaap Stam was close with a header just before half-time and the second half threatened to be a procession.

Instead Fulham, who were deprived of the spine of their team with the absence of Simon Morgan, Paul Bracewell, Paul Peschisolidi and Geoff Horsfield, stepped up their already prodigious efforts and forced United into several hairy moments in their own area.

Steve Hayward nearly drove Schmeichel into his own net with a ferocious shot and Barry Hayles was close with a header but no chance was more gilt-edged than

Salako's after 67 minutes. When Schmeichel dropped gratefully on to that, the tie was as good as won and United were on the way to a home quarter-final against Chelsea.

Indeed the closing moments were United's and Yorke was only denied a goal his play deserved when Taylor arced back to tip his shot over four minutes the end.

"It's a good draw, we're at home," Ferguson said. "At this stage of the competition you expect to meet strong opponents and we have a good record against Chelsea in cup competitions."

With Internazionale in the Champions' League, Chelsea in the Cup and Liverpool at Anfield in the Premiership in quick succession, March will define United's season. Fulham can return to the priority of securing promotion to the First Division, though first there is that even more important battle to keep Keegan.

Goal: Cole (26) 1-0. Manchester United (4-3-3): Schmeichel; G. Neville, B. Stam, I. Wright (4-4-2): B. Hayles, S. Hayward, C. Coleman, P. Peschisolidi, G. Horsfield, S. Morgan, P. Bracewell, J. Salako, D. Yorke, N. Butt, D. Beckham, A. Cole, O. Gunnar Solskjaer. Substitutes not used: J. Blomqvist, M. Taylor, S. Finnan, S. Symons, C. Coleman, B. Hayles, J. Wright, C. Coleman, S. Morgan, P. Bracewell, J. Salako, D. Yorke, N. Butt, D. Beckham, A. Cole, O. Gunnar Solskjaer. Substitutes not used: B. Hayles, S. Hayward, C. Coleman, P. Peschisolidi, G. Horsfield, S. Morgan, P. Bracewell, J. Salako, D. Yorke, N. Butt, D. Beckham, A. Cole, O. Gunnar Solskjaer. Referee: J. Winter (Stockton-on-Tees). Bookings: None. Man of the match: Finnan. Attendance: 54,798.

SIXTH-ROUND DRAW
Worcestershire or Blackburn v Everton
Barnsley v Leeds or Rotherham
Aston Villa or Sheffield Utd v Huddersfield or Derby
Manchester Utd v Chelsea
Ties to be played weekend of March 6-7

Fixtures need overhaul for game to flourish

DESPITE THE disappointing result for England, we needed to make the most of last Wednesday's friendly international against France, the World Cup holders. In future, dates for such friendlies will be severely limited.

As David O'Leary of Leeds and Jim Smith of Derby prepared their teams for FA Cup fifth-round ties last week they complained about "meaningless" friendlies; Chelsea's Ken Bates has always moaned that England play too many games. Meanwhile, the top clubs in Europe are getting together to demand compensation when their players go away on international duty.

Next season, however, the squeeze will really be on as the



GRAHAM KELLY

European Champions' League is expanded to 32 teams. This will entail 17 Champions' League match dates through the season and means that,

if replays are to be retained, the FA Cup third round will have to be brought forward to pre-Christmas. The magic of the FA Cup will be diminished. Moreover, the February date hitherto available for international friendlies will be needed for the European Champions' League.

The balance of world football power is shifting rapidly to the big clubs. It is not only national associations and national teams which will suffer. The whole of the English calendar is being rejigged for the benefit of the three clubs which will qualify for the European Champions' League. The FA Cup, the League and the Worthington Cup will all be more difficult to schedule.

Fifa, the governing body of world football, has recognised the problem, but has come to the issue too late. President Sepp Blatter's call for a World Cup every two years may have some merit if it brings about a rationalisation of the world football schedule. He says the European Championship will be used as a qualifying tournament for the World Cup and the number of qualifying matches reduced. However, his message has not been clearly communicated to Uefa, Fifa's European counterpart, which is up in arms.

Blatter should first have cleared up his own yard. Fifa's plans for a world club championship will merely add to the strain on the top players and is opposed by Uefa. The

Confederations Cup has failed to become established. Last time it was held, in Saudi Arabia in December 1997, the grounds for matches other than those of the hosts were poorly attended. I remember sitting through a very long Uruguay v United Arab Emirates game.

Meanwhile, the Fifa World Youth Championship in Nigeria in April threatens to deprive European clubs of first-team players at a time when the season is building to a climax. Poorer nations and clubs want as many matches as they can get, but the richer place their international players under even greater pressure.

There are two easy answers to fixture congestion in England. If you are a Uefa administrator you call for

a reduction in the size of the FA Premier League; never mind that the fans and 17 or 18 clubs are quite happy with the present set-up.

Alternatively, if you are one of the fortunate three clubs likely to be in Europe on a regular basis, you can advocate the abolition of the Worthington Cup. This, though, fails to recognise that the Worthington Cup brings in a total of £40m for the clubs from various sources.

All this demonstrates that the whole fixtures set-up is a mess, riven by vested interests and sectional views, not just in England but worldwide as well.

Only in this way will clubs be able to co-exist with countries, and smaller countries co-exist with their richer neighbours. In addition, national team coaches will have a proper opportunity to prepare their teams in friendlies, free of the pressure of competition.

If that produces a standard world fixture schedule, planned some years in advance, we might have a hope of seeing the world champions in exhibition mode again some time in the future.

Club football can rely on the support of fans, but the international game needs different backing. It is time that the sport's rulers across the world did more to protect and enhance international football.



Les Ferdinand, the Tottenham striker, keeps control under pressure from Leeds' David Wetherall during Saturday's 1-1 draw at Elland Road

David Ashdown

O'Leary's campaign for cash

COMING FROM George Graham, the words might have been construed as an impatient ultimatum from a man preparing the ground for his exit. In the gentle, lilting Dublin brogue of his successor at Elland Road, they sounded like a polite appeal for dialogue, although Leeds United's owners will mistake David O'Leary's niceness for weakness at their peril.

It was the aftermath of a tie which never quite lived up to the hype, and the talk had turned to expectations of the long-term variety. Whereas the Tottenham manager radiated an almost smug sense of satisfaction, O'Leary called for the very clarification of Leeds' resources and ambitions that Graham sought before settling on "personal reasons" as his rationale for taking the Alan Sugar shilling.

The Irishman began by as-

BY PHIL SHAW

Leeds United	1
Tottenham Hotspur	1

serting that, whatever the outcome of the battle of wits with his mentor had been, he would have deemed the "overall picture" at Leeds to be "rosy". However, if Graham is often guilty of offensive charm - the grudging praise and sarcastic asides are delivered with a smile - O'Leary is never slow to launch a charm offensive.

Perhaps sensing an opportunity to put pressure on his paymasters, he explained that he was "trying to pin them down" for a meeting. First he would ask whether they wanted him to stay. O'Leary knows that if the answer were anything less than an emphatic "yes", the public backlash would make the strains of "You only went for

the money" which greeted Graham on Saturday sound like a Boyzone ballad. "The bottom line," continued O'Leary, "is how much money have I got to spend? We need a bigger and better squad, and I think I need four or five more players in the summer. I have a persuasion job to do; I have to ask how much is in the kitty. If it's not a great deal, then we have to tell people. If we're saying we're a big club we have to act like one."

The Leeds faithful could be excused for believing such matters were resolved at the time of his appointment. While even Alex Ferguson would say he is a couple of players short of his ideal pool, O'Leary has a better case than most for seeking substantial backing from the boardroom. A succession of injuries has depleted what was arguably the Premiership's least nu-

merous squad, forcing him to keep young players on a roller-coaster ride that leads them to Aston Villa on Wednesday.

True, none looked out of place among Spurs' seasoned campaigners, with Harry Kewell more than matching David Ginola for menace, but Spurs had the better balance and the more clear-cut chances. Tim Sherwood, who frequently found space in a congested midfield, deftly put them ahead. Spirited as Leeds' response was, it came as a surprise when left-back Ian Harte cut inside to equalise with his supposedly weaker foot.

Like weary prize-fighters, the teams then settled for a replay almost as readily as did Steve Bruce at Highbury. With the second leg of a delicately poised Worthington Cup semi-final against Wimbledon looming tomorrow, any addition to

Spurs' schedule is unwelcome, but in the space of four months Graham has turned them into a far more durable outfit.

Their current form - two defeats in 13 games - has been an eye-opener for the Scot. "When I came to the club I had preconceived ideas about some of the players," he admitted. "Having worked with them, I've changed my mind a bit. Some have done a lot better than I expected."

Graham believed the "nice buzz about the place" could only be enhanced by Sherwood's arrival. "Tim's a winner," he purred, "and in English football you need winners alongside the technically talented players."

The former Blackburn captain is no slouch in the skill stakes either. His impact on his full debut was no doubt in O'Leary's thoughts when he suggested that Graham had

"taken a quality side and added to it". He aims to do likewise at Leeds, though if it sometimes seems he is in awe of his ex-boss, the impression is misleading.

Graham claimed he had guessed the Leeds line-up correctly. Unaware of his boast, O'Leary said: "He'll probably say he knew my side. Since we're down to the bare bones, that didn't take much of a genius." The protégé is his own man and, for all his geniality, he will not go quietly at White Hart Lane.

Goals: Sherwood (32-0-1); Harte (73-1-1). Leeds United (3-4-1-2): Murray, Radebe, Wetherall, Woodgate, Hargrove (Kortzen 84), Hopkin, Bowyer, Harte, Kewell, Haselbaink, Smith. Substitutes not used: Grimley, Harte, Jones, Robinson (64). Tottenham Hotspur (4-4-2): Walker, Carr, Young, Campbell, Eide, Wright, Anderson (Wilson 32), Freund, Sherwood, Ginola (Sinton 87), Iversen, Ferdinand. Substitutes not used: Armstrong, Vega, Bardsley (64). Referee: N Barry (Southampton). Bookings: Leeds' Woodgate, Bowyer; Tottenham's Harte, Ferdinand, Carr, Sherwood. Man of the match: Sherwood. Attendance: 39,696.

Vialli sets the right example

CONVEYED FROM Chelsea's dressing-room, the joke was about the decisive effect of Roberto Di Matteo's bottle blood fashion statement. "The hair-style made it easy for Bjarne [Goldback] to pick him out," Gianluca Vialli chuckled.

Relief coupled with humour. With just five minutes left, Vialli was thinking about further strain on Chelsea's resources when Di Matteo met Goldback's deep centre with a firm header, leaving the Sheffield Wednesday supporters to reflect on their team's curious lack of passion in this 1-0 defeat at Chelsea.

Maybe Danny Wilson's team held Chelsea in too much respect or it is that a struggle to survive in the Premiership influences their disposition? Still competing on three fronts Chelsea were never as close to going out of the FA Cup as in the previous round against Oxford United, which says something about Sheffield Wednesday's attitude.

If blood and thunder is not how Wilson likes to go about things, a touch of it might have done more to counter Chelsea's technical superiority.

A pertinent comparison could also be drawn between the Hillsborough darling Benito Carbone and his ageing compatriot Vialli. The Chelsea player-manager is coming to the end of his days on the field and it often shows, but Carbone could take a lesson in commitment from him.

People who argue that Carbone is not given enough credit (much has been made of this in print locally) overlook the fitful nature of the Italian's contribution. At times quite brilliant, Carbone cannot avoid doubts about overall application. If behind most of the good things Sheffield Wednesday managed he was not involved enough to cause Chelsea more problems than Leboeuf and Marcel Desailly could handle.

Desailly's hint that a taste for a less robust form of football may lead him to leave Chelsea could hardly have been justified

BY KEN JONES

Sheffield Wednesday	0
Chelsea	1

by his experience in the game. A few scrambles in the penalty area, but otherwise little to suggest that life could be a lot more comfortable.

Instead, Chelsea settled for confident possession troubled only when another example of Graham Le Sauc's yardward positioning enabled Carbone to reach a Dejan Stefanovic centre.

That and a speculative long-range effort from Wim Jonk was all that came from Sheffield Wednesday until Wilson got to his players at half-time.

Di Matteo's introduction for the injured Albert Ferrer after 30 minutes finally identified him as the hitherto unrecognisable blond on Chelsea's bench.

With time drawing on and eager to avoid fixture congestion Chelsea went for width, sending on Goldback for Morris. "It was the only time in the match when they got behind us," Wilson said when speaking of the move that led to Chelsea reaching the sixth round. "We lost our concentration and that was it."

Wilson also said that it was better to have lost in the cup than in the League which probably explains his team's tentative performance. Time was when things were different, but football today is about financial security.

As for Di Matteo's new look, Vialli was philosophical. "Players are young men who want to indulge themselves," he said. "It makes no difference to me as long as they play well." And score the winner in an FA Cup tie.

Goals: Di Matteo (85-0-1). Sheffield Wednesday (4-4-2): Peggiman, Atherton, Thorne, Walker, Stefanovic, Albion, Anderson, Sommer (Aggus 90), Jank, Rudi (Briscoe 84), Booth, Carbone. Substitutes not used: Newcombe, Clarke, Humphreys, Chelsea (4-4-2): Di Matteo, Ferrer (D Marcano 30), Desailly, Leboeuf, Le Sauc, Petteus, Cole, Vialli, Stefanovic not used: Hittcock, Terry, Forsell. Referee: S Dunn (Bristol). Bookings: Sheffield Wednesday's Atherton. Man of the match: Leboeuf. Attendance: 29,410.

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Derby penalty evens the score for Smith

JIM SMITH knows what it is like to be on the suffering end from the penalty spot in the FA Cup. Only once in his 30 years as a manager in the competition has the veteran with the famously polished pate got within sight of Wembley's twin domes - when his Portsmouth team lost to Liverpool in the shoot-out that decided the semi-final replay at Villa Park in 1992.

It was perhaps a settling of the Bald Eagle's personal score, then, that his Derby County set kept in the season's FA Cup hunt with the help of a fortuitous penalty award at the McAlpine Stadium on Saturday. Peter Jackson, Huddersfield Town's manager, was near apoplectic at pitch-side when Gary Willard pointed to the spot after Dean Surridge fell to earth in the home penalty box in the 59th minute.

Television replays failed to detect contact of any significance from Rob Edwards but Tony Dorigo, with an assured foot-footed conversion, gratefully snatched the gift-wrapped opportunity to put Derby 2-1 in front. "I was disappointed with the referee but I'm not going to

BY SIMON TURNBULL

Huddersfield Town	2
Derby County	2

fault him," Jackson said in the after-match calm. "Some decisions go against you. Next week we might get one like that in our favour."

In the overall scheme of a rip-roaring tie, Huddersfield could have had no complaint with their lot. For half an hour they exploited the lethargy of their Premiership opponents but for the best part of an hour they were largely outclassed.

They also had the inspirational Nico Vaesen to thank for securing a second chance at Pride Park. The Belgian goalkeeper was in stunning form, producing half a dozen blinding saves, the most vital from Lee Carlsley as Mr Willard prepared to blow the final whistle after four minutes of injury time.

"Their keeper kept them in the game," Smith acknowledged. "But we should have made it easier for ourselves. We were sloppy."

Horscio Carbonari certainly was. It was his over-casual at-

tempt to deal with Grant Johnson's speculative punt that left Chris Beech free to chip Huddersfield into a 41st minute lead. It was also the Argentinian defender's failure to clear Ben Thornton's left-wing corner that granted Marcus Stewart a free-header for Huddersfield's 71st minute equaliser.

It was the brilliant Francesco Balzano who orchestrated the right-wing move that led to his side's first goal, feeding Stefano Eranio for the cross. Dean Burton headed home in the 55th minute. It was the referee, though, who provided the assist four minutes later, albeit without the help of video analysis - a penalty that the Bald Eagle ultimately needed to stay on the FA Cup perch.

Goals: Beech (41-1-0); Burton (55-1-1); Dorigo pen (59-1-2); Stewart (71-2-2). Huddersfield Town (4-4-2): Vaesen, Carbonari (Pettit 71), Prior, Laurson, Balzano, Johnson, Phillips, Beech, Thornton, Stewart, Substitutes not used: Barnes, Beresford, Hessey, Senior (64). Derby County (3-4-1-2): Hout, Smith, Carlsley, Eranio, Dorigo, Balzano (Punt 86); Surridge, Harper 89, Burton, Substitutes not used: Schorner, Knight (64). Bookings: Huddersfield's Edwards, Burton, Derby's Burton. Referee: G Willard (Worthing). Man of the match: Vaesen. Attendance: 22,129.



Game Results 13/2/99.
This Saturday there were 6 score draws:

CRYSTAL P.	V CREWE	*FORFAR	V EAST FIFE
BURNLEY	V READING	STEVENAGE	V KINGSTONIAN
SWANSEA	V CARLISLE	ALTRINCHAM	V WINSFORD

*Matchmaker Adjudicated Results for postponed matches
Home wins (0): NONE.
Away wins (0): NONE.
No score draws (1): STENHOUSEMUR V MONTROSE
Score draws (1): FORFAR V EAST FIFE.

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هكذا من الشغل

FA Cup: English reputation for fair play is upheld by agreement to replay Highbury tie after ungentlemanly goal

FA right to follow Wenger's lead



GLENN MOORE

Arsenal 2
Sheffield United 1

"COMMON SENSE - not so common that," Howard Wilkinson said in response to one question last week. The Football Association showed at the weekend that, contrary to popular belief, it does possess it.

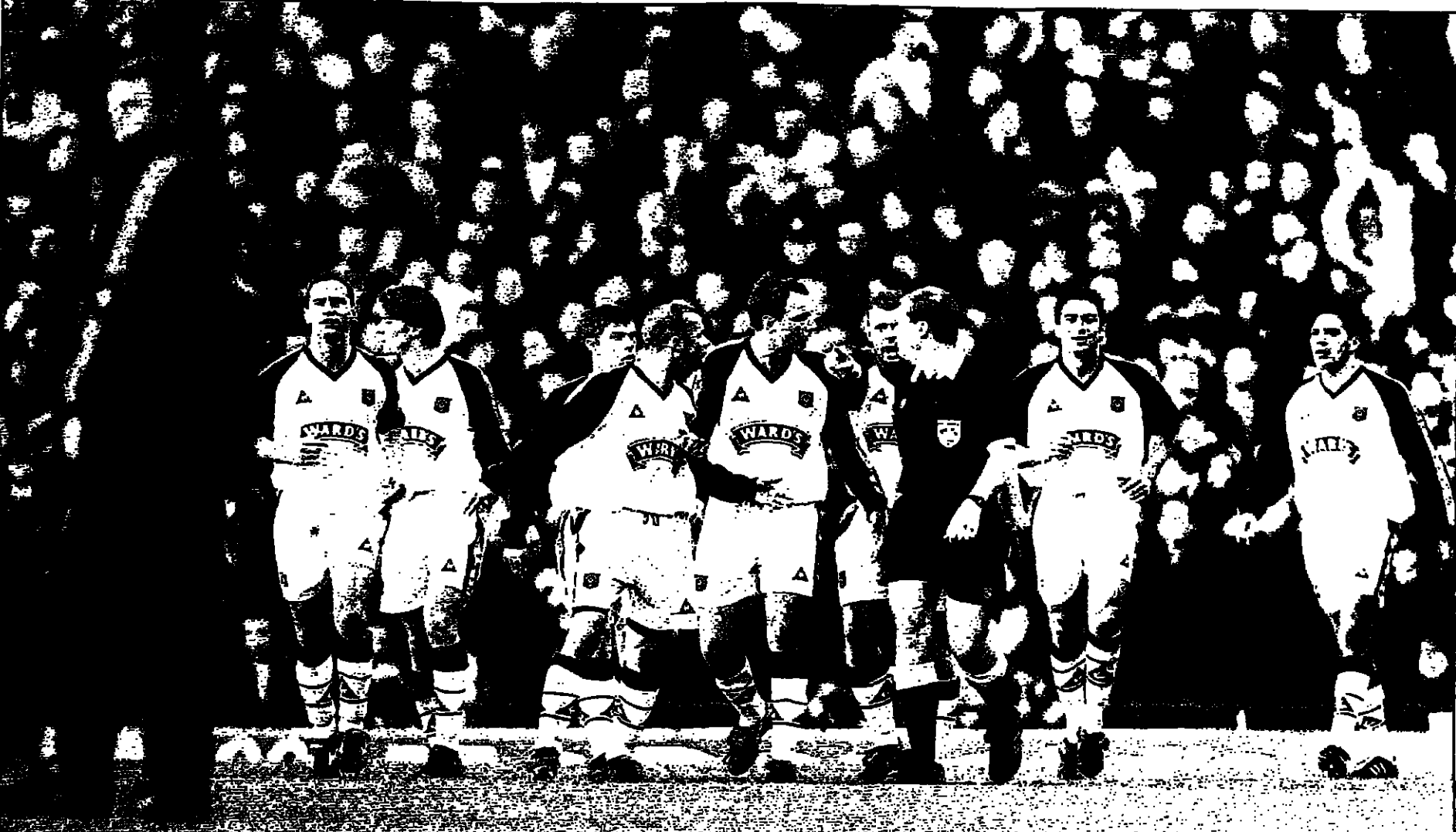
The FA's decision to grant the joint request of Arsenal and Sheffield United to re-stage their fifth round FA Cup tie, controversially won by Marc Overmars' ungentlemanly goal, scored after Sheffield United had kicked the ball out of play to allow an injured player to be treated, is to be commended. So is the speed with which it was made, within an hour of the final whistle. First Glenn Hoddle's relatively swift exit, now this. The FA may be in the hands of caretakers but they appear to be taking good care.

There will be complaints from some about an FA acting above the law, but these should be ignored. There are enough arcane laws in the FA's rule book to find one to fit the bill, probably the catch-all, "bringing the game into disrepute". Nor does this set a dangerous precedent. The FA has been ordering teams to replay FA Cup ties for more than a century. In the 1888 competition three matches, involving such teams as Swifts and Mellors Limited as well as Sunderland and Crewe Alexandra, were ordered to be replayed, including one tie because of a protest about the size of the goals.

More recently games have been replayed due to crowd trouble, notably Newcastle's sixth round tie with Nottingham Forest in 1974. Newcastle had come back from 3-1 down to win 4-3 after a pitch invasion. The last such case was in 1992 when Peterborough, having beaten Kingstonian 9-1, were ordered to replay the match behind closed doors because the Kingstonian goalkeeper had been hit by missiles. Bizarrely, Kingstonian were reluctant to do so as it meant players had to take more time off work.

However, there has never been an incident, as far as various statisticians and football anomalies could recall, anywhere in the world, which involved the nebulous concept of "sportsmanship".

At a time when the English game is again under siege following the controversial departures of the FA's chief executive, chairman and national coach, has been tarnished by association with an



A posse of Sheffield United players make their feelings known to referee Peter Jones after Arsenal's controversial second goal at Highbury on Saturday

alleged betting scam, and is frequently regarded with mixed emotions due to the wealth and behaviour of some of its stars, this has been an important application of ethics. The policy of kicking the ball out when a player is injured started in England and has spread across the world and down to the parks. As Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the players' union said, "it is one of the best things that has happened on the field in recent years".

However, it is time it was enshrined in law, for this is not the first occasion it has been ignored. Ironically, the most high-profile previous cases were against Arsenal. In 1996 Andy Sinton scored in a north London derby which Arsenal then won, and in 1997 Chris Sutton was the prime culprit as Blackburn gained a last-minute equaliser. The first case was not as clear cut as Saturday's, but the second was. At that stage the FA should have let referees know that, in the event of such reprehensible behaviour, they could disallow the goal. What can be immediately instituted is a booking, under Law 12, for "unsporting behaviour", but it is not clear whether that law empowers the referee to stop the game because an offence has been committed. The FA should press FIFA for a ruling. It does not necessarily require a change in the laws, merely a guideline as to how they should be interpreted. This was the method used recently to crack down

on the tackle from behind. Were the players involved on Saturday, Ray Parlour, Nwankwo Kanu and Overmars, aware of what they were doing? Parlour threw the ball towards the Sheffield United corner flag presumably for Alan Kelly - who had kicked it out as Lee Morris was injured in the other penalty area - to collect, though he threw it quite close to Kanu. The Nigerian, who had looked bewildered in his few minutes on the pitch after coming on as substitute to make his Arsenal debut, ran on to the ball and, with Kelly and his defence out of position, squared it to Overmars. The Dutchman should have stopped the nonsense then, but instead tapped the ball in. United, understandably, were furious. Overmars was

surrounded and took a couple of slaps on the face. Kanu and the referee, Peter Jones, were besieged. The far end, where the away supporters were gathered, was in uproar; the home support largely embarrassed. A six-minute delay followed while Bruce, his coaching staff and some players heatedly discussed the situation with Jones and Adrian Titcombe, a senior FA official who was present. At one stage it seemed United were going to walk off but eventually they were persuaded to play the remaining 13 minutes. As soon as the game finished Arsène Wenger and David Dein, the Arsenal vice-chairman and a prominent FA councillor, offered to re-stage the game. This was put, by telephone, to David Davies, the FA's

acting chief executive, and Terry Annable, chairman of the Challenge Cup committee. They swiftly agreed. Much credit is due to Wenger and Arsenal: had the offer not been in a far more difficult position. Bruce, meanwhile, had said he felt "robbed, cheated and furious" adding: "We were 15 minutes from a replay. I could say it should be at Bramall Lane but I don't want to be greedy."

By rights it should, Arsenal, who were missing five key players, will surely be much stronger when it is replayed, probably on 23 February. Wenger said: "We didn't mean to cheat. Kanu did not know. We want to repair what happened." He added: "We want it

here. We have a fair spirit but are not stupid." The incident inevitably overshadowed a match which had begun quietly but was building up to a promising conclusion. Arsenal had struggled to penetrate a United team in which the teenager Curtis Woodhouse impressed until Patrick Vieira glanced in Dennis Bergkamp's free-kick after 28 minutes.

That precipitated a period of Arsenal pressure during which the stocky but impressively quick-footed Kaba Diawara could have capped his full Arsenal debut with a hat-trick. The £2.5m signing from Bordeaux was denied by Alan Kelly once and the woodwork twice. Shortly after half-time, Marcelo headed in Paul Devlin's cross and, with United again cancelling out Arsenal, but apparently unable to cause problems themselves, the game appeared to be drifting towards a draw. Then a patently unfit Kanu arrived to prove that the world's oldest competition can still throw up something new.

Goal: Vieira (28) 1-0; Marcelo (48) 1-1; Overmars (77) 2-1. Arsenal (4-4-2): Seaman; Vivas, Grmard, Bould, Winterburn; Parlour, Vieira, Diawara (Kanu, 64). Substitutes not used: Anelka, Upson, Manninger (64). Sheffield United (4-4-2): Kelly, Devlin, Holdsworth, Sandford, Gullitt; Devlin (Twiss, 90), Stuart, Woodhouse, Hamilton, Morris (Ford, 76); Marcello. Substitutes not used: Jackson, O'Connor, Tracy (64). Referee: P. Jones (Loughborough). Bookings: Twiss, Stuart, Hamilton, Holdsworth, Devlin, Marcello. Man of the match: Woodhouse. Attendance: 38,020.

Leading article Review, page 3

Replay 'sets dangerous precedent'

AS THE country's most senior referee said yesterday that the rescheduling of Saturday's FA Cup match between Arsenal and Sheffield United had set "a very dangerous precedent", it emerged that an incident very similar to Saturday's occurred a fortnight ago and an "ungentlemanly" goal on that occasion had been disallowed.

During a Second Division match between Wrexham and Preston, the referee, Brian Coddington, dropped the ball near the half-way line to restart

the game after an injury. Wrexham's Jeff Whitley promptly lobbed it into Preston's net from over 50 yards, but Coddington immediately ruled it out and gave a goal-kick. "It was obviously wrong to allow the goal, it was an absolute fuke," Coddington said yesterday. "In the spirit of the law, we had to re-start the game and cancel the goal. I thought straight away 'this is

not right', and the players did too. In the end, we all had a good laugh. It was 4-0 to Preston at the time, but I could not let the goal stand as there is a spirit of the law as well as the letter of the law."

Philip Don, the Premier League referees' spokesman, said of the decision to replay Saturday's match: "A very dangerous precedent has been set. The referee is there to control a game according to the rules, which state that whoever scores the most goals wins. Whatever one may think about the rights and wrongs of what happened, no laws were broken when the goal was scored."

Of Marc Overmars' goal, which put Arsenal 2-1 ahead following a throw-in intended for United's goalkeeper, Alan Kelly, Don added: "I've heard plenty of people say what Peter Jones (Saturday's referee) should have done, but under the laws of the game he did exactly what he had to do. Nobody seems to be talking about the conduct of the players."

Filan's dazzling display solves mystery Hignett reveals Barnsley's class

SOMEONE SHOULD have told John Filan that Blackburn's interest in prolonging their involvement in this season's FA Cup borders on indifference, preoccupied as they are with Premiership survival. Newcastle certainly wish they had. But for Filan yesterday, they would have claimed a home quarter-final against Everton.

There are those who have wondered how the Australian has succeeded in denying such an accomplished goalkeeper as Tim Flowers a way back into the Premiership after injury. If there was ever a mystery, there is mystery no more.

By Mark Pierson
Newcastle United 0
Blackburn Rovers 0

Filan enjoyed one of those days young goalkeepers may dream about but rarely experience. As a consequence Newcastle have now to come through an Ewood Park replay in order to save their season from premature collapse.

Outwardly Rmud Gullit, their manager, seems confident that his team will see Rovers off second time round. "There is going to be much more space available to us at Ewood and probably a

better pitch to play on than the one we had today," he declared. "It was their goalkeeper who kept Blackburn in the Cup, and while my players are very disappointed with the result, I am very happy with the way they performed. The progress we have made is there for everyone to see. There is a lot more in this team than everyone thought."

Gullit's side were not the first to chance their arm. Ashley Ward's clever early job against the bar falsely suggested that Rovers were up for it in an attacking sense but having survived a scare which took Shay Given totally by surprise

Newcastle quickly asserted themselves to become the game's prime movers. The only surprise was that having dominated most of the match they failed to establish the significant lead they deserved by half-time. The exploration was threefold: excellent goalkeeping from Filan, a degree of misfortune and the occasional piece of rank bad finishing, the most notable of which saw Temuri Ketsbaisa head over the top in the sixth minute.

Goodison goals almost too good to be true

THINK OF the two words you are least likely to see bracketed together and "Everton" and "extralarming" would be the best. But the BBC's idiosyncratic national treasure Stuart Hall managed it on Saturday night and witnesses swear he was not dragged giggling from Goodison in a straitjacket.

Then again quite a few were questioning the evidence of their eyes while mumbbling strange couplets in dark corners. Goodison and goals giving doctors most cause for concern. It helped, of course, that Coventry played like they thought the floodlights were

sonnel because of injury he stumbled, mad professor-like on the formula. A back four; two wide players more interested in going forward than back and strikers willing to pass to each other transformed Everton from the football equivalent of watching paint drying into something resembling entertainment.

Spectators hugged themselves like the FA Cup had been won when Francis Jeffers scored at the Gwladys Street, an end of the ground that has been a barren landscape in the Premiership this season, and were pinching themselves in disbelief when John Ooster got a second

to match the previous high tide of two home goals at Goodison against Huddersfield in the Worthington Cup in September. Then, just to ensure the fifth round tie remained edge-of-the-seat stuff for 90 minutes, they defended too deep and almost let Coventry steal a replay.

Jeffers, 18, and a prolific scorer in the youth team, made a difference but so did the decision to convert Don Hutchison into a striker. The Scot, in the twilight zone between midfield and attack, shed light with the intelligence of his passing. "He must tell me lies because he told me he spent most

of his early career up front," Smith said. "I know Jeffers played well today but I'm sure he'd be the first to acknowledge Hutchison's contribution."

Strachan certainly did although he was more preoccupied with the failings of his own team. Coventry seemed to assume a right to reach last eight and only stirred themselves when it was far too late. Why? "You can't explain everything in football," said Strachan, who did not enjoy his team's lack of competitiveness. "I didn't think we could play as badly as we had in the first half but we managed to do it for another 30 minutes so at least we were consistent."

[illegible]

Hammers keep Forest in their place

FOR HALF an hour at Upton Park on Saturday, the mood was curmudgeonly. West Ham, after all, had not won in 1999 and were only playing at all because they had been turfed out of the FA Cup by the might of Swansea City. As passes went into touch or straight to the wrong-coloured shirt, and Frank Lampard and Paolo Di Canio failed to hit the goal from a matter of yards out, the only consolation to be had was in deriding the visitors' even

BY STEVE TONGUE

West Ham United 2
Nottingham Forest 1

greater inadequacies. "Anything we can do badly, they can do worse," observed one Mr Gilm.

Ron Atkinson, in defiant contrast, was at that stage looking on the bright side. Having yielded four goals to one Manchester United substitute in their previous 11 minutes' football,

this was progress of a sort for the Premiership's bottom club. "I thought we'd get to half-time without conceding," he said, probably just as Stan Lazaridis sent Eyal Berkovic down the left for a cross that Ian Pearce knocked in at the far post.

Six minutes later, Trevor Sinclair on the right did something similar for Lampard and another 8-1 scoreline seemed possible - as long as Forest could manage the one. The

crowd grew more benevolent and Atkinson was forced to change his tune. "At half-time my biggest fear was that we'd cave in," he admitted. They did not do that, creditably, halving the deficit and maintaining their self-respect without ever really threatening to claim a point. Seven minutes from the end, with West Ham having slipped back into casualness and lethargy, young Joe Cole was the only home player bright enough to realise that a

defensive wall might be a useful preventive measure as Pierre van Hooijdonk lined up a free-kick. While the others gawped gormlessly, the Dutchman played the double-bluff by floating it for Jon Olav Hjelde to head in.

Even with Forest's goal difference thus reduced from minus 32 to minus 31, nobody quite had the heart to test the Big Man's powers of optimism by asking about their prospects of staying up - or even whether

he regretted leaving his Barbados beach.

The rest of the afternoon's entertainment, sadly denied to the crowd, was provided by West Ham's manager, Harry Redknapp. Asked, just as his mobile phone rang, about reports that Blackburn wanted West Ham's captain Steve Lomas to replace Tim Sherwood, Redknapp went into a wonderful pantomime of pretending that the call was from Brian Kidd: "You can have him

on a free, Brian, take him. Alex Ferguson taught you all you know? No problem."

Goals: Pearce (33) 1-0; Lampard (59) 2-0; Hjelde (83) 2-1.
West Ham United (3-5-2): Hodge; Pearce, Ferdinand, Ruddock; Sinagra, Lomas, Lampard, Berkevic (Cole, 78); Lazaridis (Minto, 90); D. Carr. Nottingham Forest (4-4-2): Beasant; Hargreaves (66), Palmer, Hjelde, Steadman (Cherry, 59); Stone, Johnson, Gerrard (Portillo, 78); Rogers (Shupbery, Van Hooijdonk). Substitutes not used: Crossley (94), Darcheville.
Referee: H. Hurrell (Oxford).
Bookings: West Ham: Johnson, Van Hooijdonk.
Notes of the match: Rogers.
Attendance: 25,458.

Houllier still a long way from success

ONE LOOK at the results they have achieved over the past three months since Gerard Houllier assumed sole responsibility for team affairs at Liverpool following the departure of Roy Evans would suggest the Frenchman is turning things around for the Premiership's big under-achievers.

But after watching them struggle to impose themselves on one of the prime candidates for relegation at The Valley on Saturday, it seems evident that Houllier still has plenty to do before Liverpool can compete with the big achievers on a regular basis.

It could be argued there were mitigating circumstances: Michael Owen, Jamie Redknapp and Paul Ince were probably suffering a hangover from England's morale-sapping defeat by France three days earlier; Jamie Carragher's controversial dismissal, Liverpool's second in two matches, led directly to Charlton's winning goal; Keith Jones taking full advantage of Liverpool's defensive disarray and Steve Staunton's uncharacteristic blunder; and Charlton themselves played with great spirit and determination.

But if Liverpool want to compare themselves with their greatest rivals, Manchester United, then none of this should be allowed to disguise their shortcomings. In order to cope

BY ADAM SZRETER

Charlton Athletic 1
Liverpool 0

with the vagaries of form, fitness and confidence they need a bigger squad, and while Carragher's supposed elbowing of Charlton striker Martin Pringle seemed, at the very worst, accidental and in all probability non-existent, a total of two genuine goal attempts prior to that should be Houllier's concern this morning rather than the possibility of an FA reprimand for labelling both Pringle and referee Mike Reed cheats.

"They've got too many prima donnas," one Charlton fan said of Liverpool on his way out of the ground, and he had a point. Ince and Redknapp in particular gave the impression it was all a bit beneath them, and Houllier's hardest task will either be to coax some consistency out of his highest-paid players or replace them with others who are prepared to work hard.

Referee Reed, it has to be said, was a pain in the neck. He kept his coloured cards close to his chest in the first half, contenting himself with whistling for a succession of infringements that were apparent only to him but after half-time, it seemed, he could bear it no longer and flourished three unnecessary yellow cards in two

minutes. When Pringle went down clutching his throat the red card was sadly predictable, but you have to wonder whether the referee actually saw the incident or just reacted to the Charlton player falling.

For Charlton, though, it was a happy end to a turbulent week following the floodlight fiasco that threatened to overshadow proceedings. It was their second home win in five days and, after looking dead and buried by Christmas, they suddenly have a genuine chance of survival. The atmosphere by the end of what was once the largest of all League grounds was like a carnival, and if any club deserves the luck that came their way on Saturday it would have to be Charlton.

"After the run we've had it would have put a lot of people down, but the fans and the players have been up for it all season," said their estimable young manager Alan Curbishley. Liverpool's players would do well to take note.

Goals: Jones (70) 1-0.
Charlton Athletic (3-5-2): Royce; Mills, Brown, Tiler, Robinson; Jones, Kinsella, Redfern (Barnes, 68); Powell; Pringle (Bright, 85). Substitutes not used: Newton, Barnes, Ilic (94).
Liverpool (3-5-2): James; Carragher; Matteo, Staunton; Hegggen (Gerrard, 81); Redknapp, Ince, McManis; Barmby (Song, 73); Fowler, Owen (Riedle, 81). Substitutes not used: Thompson, Frade (94).
Referee: M. Reed (Birmingham).
Sending-off: Charlton: Carragher. Bookings: Charlton: Mills, Liverpool: Ince, Staunton, Barmby.
Notes of the match: Pringle.
Attendance: 20,043.



Liverpool's Vegard Hegggen is caught between Charlton's Chris Powell (left) and Mark Kinsella

Empics

Rangers destroy Hamilton Bradford lose touch

RANGERS DULY eased into the quarter-finals of the Tennent's Scottish Cup yesterday by brushing aside the challenge of Hamilton from the First Division in a match which was as one-sided as many had expected.

These cup ties often become an illustration of the vast gulf that exists between the best and the rest in Scottish football. Hamilton were facing Rangers for the fourth time in as many seasons but rarely in any of the ties did they look like creating a shock of the same proportions as their 1-0 victory at Ibrox 12 years ago.

Accies are no Fulham. While Kevin Keegan's side could travel to Old Trafford and give Manchester United an uncomfortable afternoon, the Larkhall club which is forced

BY DAVID MCKINNEY

Hamilton Academical 0
Rangers 6

to share the home of Patrick Thistle in Glasgow were incapable of rising to the challenge of a higher league and were realistically looking at damage limitation.

Their worst fears must have surfaced within five minutes as Rangers took the lead. A corner was flicked on by Jorg Albertz to Jonathan Johansson, whose close-range effort deceived the defender on the far post.

Despite the early goal, and even with four players committed to attack, Rangers opted for control of the game, measuring their passes and building patiently with the pace of Johansson and Rod Wallace

largely neutralised by a deep-lying back five. Albertz blasted a couple of efforts wide and on the stroke of half-time Rangers doubled their lead. Noel McCann collected the ball on the break and elected to go for goal himself but was brought down by John Hillcoat, the Hamilton goalkeeper. Albertz stroked the resultant penalty into the bottom corner.

Two minutes into the second half Johansson saw his shot on the turn pushed wide by the goalkeeper, but the third goal was delayed for just a minute as Tony Vidmar headed unmarked into the net from a corner.

In a rare excursion forward, Ian McAnally found space to shoot for the Accies but his effort was well saved by Stefan Klos.

In the 65th minute, Rangers produced a fourth goal, when Andrei Kanchelskii played a one-two with Charlie Miller and slammed the ball into the back of his opponents' net from six yards.

In the 73rd minute Stéphane Guivarch won a long ball from Kanchelskii and found John Morrison, whose speed took him beyond the defence and gave him a simple task to score.

Two minutes later, McCann added a sixth goal for Rangers with a firm drive.
Hamilton Academical (3-5-2): J. Hillcoat; Rankin, Berry, C. Hillcoat, Thomson, Cunningham; Morrison, Miller (McKenzie, 53); D. Henderson (Clark, 68); McCormick, Vidmar. Substitutes not used: Moore.
Rangers (4-2-4): Klos; Vidmar (Wilson, 81); Morrison, Morrison, Van Brondhorst; S. Ferguson, Albertz (Miller, 51); Kanchelskii, Johansson, Wallace (Guivarch, 45). McCann. Substitutes not used: Wilson. Referee: M. McCarty (Glasgow).
Bookings: None.
Notes of the match: Johansson.
Attendance: 7,339.

BRADFORD'S CLAIMS for an automatic promotion, place were significantly downgraded as their free-scoring touch went sadly missing under one of Ipswich's clean defensive sheets.

No team in the Nationwide league has managed as many shut-outs as George Burley's side, who notched up number 19 in the process of dislodging Bradford from second spot.

Not that Paul Jewell, the Bradford manager, was prepared to accept this result as a major setback in his club's bid to climb into the Premiership. "As I have just said in the dressing room, it's not just big 5-0 wins that get you promotion," Jewell said. "It's the ability to pick up points in matches when you are not at your best, and today we definitely were not at our best."

BY MARK PIERSON

Bradford City 0
Ipswich Town 0

"We did not play well but the players stuck at it. Credit to Ipswich who are very well organised which makes them difficult to beat. It was up to us to break them down, but we couldn't. But I suppose it's how they've managed to keep 19 clean sheets."

Although there was much satisfaction from Burley's point of view in nullifying the Bradford threat, the Ipswich manager was still something of a Mr Gilm. Burley's chief gripe was the performance of Middlesbrough referee Graham Franklin, who booked striker David Johnson for diving. Burley approached the

Tesside official following the final whistle to challenge a decision which forces Johnson into a one match suspension.

"Maybe I am biased, but for me it was the wrong decision," Burley said. "That is why I spoke to the referee after the game. But he said he was closer to the incident. However, overall, I was pleased with the commitment of the players. We had a lot of possession and worked very hard. I can't fault their commitment."

Bradford City (4-4-2): Walsh; Wright, Moore, Westwood, Jacobs; Lawrence, McCall, Whalley, Baggie; Blake (Rankin, 88). Substitutes not used: O'Brien, Ramage.
Ipswich Town (4-4-2): Wright; Mills, Tarnie, Mowbray, Venus; Chapman, Dyer, Magilton, Holland; Harwood (Naylor, 62); Johnson. Substitutes not used: Stockwell, Petco.
Bookings: Ipswich: Mills, Magilton, Johnson.
Attendance: 15,024.
Notes of the match: Mowbray.
Referee: G. Franklin (Middlesbrough).

SNOW REPORTS in association with WorldCover Direct

SKI HOTLINE							
Resort	Area open	Comment	Slopes (cm)	Low	Up	Last snow	Temp
ANDORRA							
Soldeu	100%	Firm base	80	100	11.2	-9C	Snow, sun.
AUSTRIA							
Badgastein	98%	Dry, powdery	70	150	11.2	-8C	Unsettled
Falchau	90%	Fresh powder	40	160	12.2	-7C	Cold
BULGARIA							
Borovetz	100%	Much improved	60	130	14.2	-3	Snow
CANADA							
Tremblant	90%	Groomed/granular	45	70	9.2	-12C	Cloudy
FRANCE							
La Clusaz	90%	Powdery snow	140	250	10.2	-12C	Clear
Meribel	100%	Good	130	270	10.2	-10C	Cold, sun.
ITALY							
Cervinia	90%	Good conditions	60	150	10.2	-12C	Changeable
San Cassiano	100%	Sella Ronda open	40	70	10.2	-10C	Snow
SCOTLAND							
Calmeing	80%	Good conditions	25	50	10.2	2C	Cloud, snow
SWEDEN							
Are	90%	Good	37	90	4.2	-3C	Changeable
SWITZERLAND							
Lepoint	90%	Packed, powdery	170	240	11.2	-12C	Cloud
UNITED STATES							
Boyer Creek	100%	Powdery	85	140	5.2	-12C	Cloudy

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Atletico Madrid fire Sacchi

ARRIGO SACCHI was sacked as coach of Atletico Madrid yesterday, a day after the Italian's team suffered its fourth successive defeat. The decision will be confirmed by the club today.

The former Milan and Italy coach lasted just seven months of a contract that was to have run through June 2000 and leaves with Atletico languishing in ninth place in the Spanish League.

Sacchi became the sixth coach in Spain to be sacked so far this season, and the Dutchman Guus Hiddink, across the capital at Real, must be a little concerned that he could soon become number seven. His Real side lost 3-0 away to their arch rivals, Barcelona, who made light of having their Brazilian wing-back, Roberto Carlos, sent off after 20 minutes for a wild tackle.

Victory, courtesy of two goals by Luis Enrique and another by Rivaldo, put the champions and League leaders, Barcelona, on 43 points with Real trailing in a group of four clubs on 37.

OVERSEAS ROUND-UP

BY MARK BURTON

Mallorca continue their strong challenge with a 1-0 home win over Real Sociedad on Saturday, while Celta Vigo continued to slip away with a 2-1 defeat at Valladolid, where Lopez Moreno scored the winner 12 minutes from time.

Brazilian Denilson, the world's most expensive player, hit a rare goal for Real Betis to save a point for them a 1-1 draw at home to Santander.

There are new leaders in Italy, where Lazio took advantage of Fiorentina's loss of their prolific Argentine striker, Gabriel Batistuta, to injury and his Brazilian sidekick, Edmundo, who fancied 10 days at home to enjoy the carnival.

Fiorentina went down 1-0 at Udinese to a goal from another Argentinian, Roberto Sosa.

Lazio went to the top of Serie A for the first time in 24 seasons, but hardly with a flourish, ending their run of nine successive league wins with a 0-0 draw at Cagliari. The Rome

side managed only one shot on target as the tension of equalling the Italian record of 10 straight wins seemed to get to them.

Carlo Ancelotti celebrated his first match in charge of Juventus with a 2-0 win at Piacenza, while another managerial debutant, Vujadin Boskov, saw his new club, Perugia, reduced to 10 men but remarkably they still beat Internazionale 2-1 at home.

Inter struggled without Ronaldo and Roberto Baggio, who are both injured.

OUTSIDE EDGE

Scam of sparkies riding Suzukis

SO LET'S see if I've got this straight, then - the theory of it at least. This guy from the Far East has got this betting syndicate with some mates. He places a bet in Jakarta, on the floodlights failing simultaneously at three English football grounds. His mates fly over to Heathrow. They hire 500cc Suzukis and whizz round the country cutting off the juice at the three grounds. He then pockets the winnings.

OK, so I know things didn't quite go according to plan. Thanks, we're told, to a police sniffer dog called Pickles. But what is it with this guy who takes all these bets? He makes Trigger off Only Fools and Horses seem like Magnus Magnusson. I mean, most bookies are sharp enough to shave you smooth. This fellow, though, seems as slack as an attack led by Ibrahim Bakayoko.

Can you even begin to imagine the conversation that took place in the guy's office? English subtitles, of course.

"Right, then. So you're putting on 10 billion yen at 20-1 that the floodlights will fail at the matches involving Valleypool and Liverton, Crook Town and Bedlington Terriers, and Adlington and Chipping Norton. Now, you sure that's right?"

"Yup."

"Just three failures?"

"Yup."

"You wouldn't like better odds? I mean, nothing like this has ever happened before, you know. You sure I can't throw in that special Parting of the Red Sea/Plague of Locusts each-way double we're offering at 1,000,000-1?"

"Nah! The 20-1 is fine. I've got this feeling in my water?"

"OK then. It's a lot of money you're splashing out, though."

"Yeah. Look, don't worry. That's gambling. Anyhow, must dash. The lads have got a plane to catch. By the way, don't suppose you've any wire-cutters we can borrow?"

Let's be honest, the thing doesn't stack up, does it? In fact, it poses more questions than it answers.

For instance, could even Trigger have fallen for the scam? Did Pickles sniff out the saboteurs? Have Adlington actually got floodlights?

Just consider this for a minute. And I know we're only theorising here. But, you've all been to a bookies before. You tell me a bookie who'd offer 1,000,000-1 for that each-way Biblical double. I mean, come on! With modern-day technology, Wave machines, Tidal barriers.

Genetic Engineering. You'd be lucky to get 100-1. Certainly 150-1 tops.

Do you know what I think? I think it was all a double bluff. The whole thing, I'm convinced old Trig was not so dumb after all. I reckon as soon as our syndicate wallah was out of the door, Trig was on the blower to the Sweeney Todd. From then on it was Bob's your uncle, Charlie's your aunt.

And as for Pickles. Do you honestly believe that a dog that was around for the 1966 World Cup could still have such a keen sense of smell 33 years later? I don't.

There again, I wouldn't bet on it.

ALAN EDGE

SATURDAY'S LOTTERY UPDATE.

Draw date: 13/2/99. The winning numbers: 5, 23, 26, 27, 47, 49. Bonus number: 48.

Total Sales: £54,863,321. Prize Fund: £24,688,494 (45% of ticket sales).

CATEGORY	NO. OF WINNERS	AMOUNT FOR EACH WINNER	TOTAL EACH TIER
Match 6 (Jackpot)	1	£8,198,811	£8,198,811
Match 5 plus bonus ball	9	£260,301	£2,322,708
Match 5	730	£2,189	£1,576,070
Match 4	42,295	£82	£3,469,100
Match 3	892,155	£10	£8,921,550
TOTALS	935,190		£24,687,330

* Total Sales including Insurance and Wednesday Draw: £54,280,542.
Total week's contribution to Good Causes: £25,400,000.

Breakage (prizes rounded down to nearest £1) £1,154.
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Maybe, just maybe. THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

In the event of any discrepancy in the above, the data contained in Camelot's central computer system shall prevail.

BOOK
OF THE
WEEK

Club Colours: An illustrated history of football clubs and their kits by Bob Bickerton
Hamlyn, £25 hardback

A FREQUENT thought when watching football the past few years has been to pity the players for having to turn out in some of those ghastly strips. It must feel demeaning to come out looking like a paintball victim – and that must affect the way a team plays. Manchester United's grey-shirted demerit at The Dell a few years ago supports the idea.

In his quasi-anthropological coffee-table book *The Football Tribe*, Desmond Morris investigated the psychology of football strips. Red is the colour most likely to instil fire into players' hearts, apparently, though Morris was unable to explain why blue, which is supposed to have the opposite effect, is equally popular.

Club Colours sensibly avoids straying into such dodgy waters, restricting itself to mapping the evolution of every side's kit, from the red and blue stripes of 1880s Arsenal to the red, white and blue of 1990s York. We think we had it bad in the early 90s, with the likes of Brighton and Arsenal risking prosecutions for light pollution, but the early days were just as consciousness-altering.

Accordingly, the book features a welter of op-art creations to dazzle and confuse, such as Tranmere's gold and red halves with blue shorts, Watford's red, gold and green hoops, York City's chocolate and cream stripes (a nod to the support the club enjoyed in the local Rowntree's and Terry's factories), Luton's blue and pink halves with matching cap or Bolton's white shirts with big red spots.

It's a shame that the book, though exhaustive, is not a complete record of every kit worn by every club. That way it would have provided a service for fanatics, though it would have to have been twice the size or more cramped. As it is, the lay-out and illustrations in coloured pencil are attractive.

Evocative though they are of football's halcyon days, however, they do have the unfortunate effect of flattening out the distinctive features, making each strip too much like the rest – and, rendering in the process even those early-90s abominations aesthetically palatable.

What the book lacks is any serious discussion of the topic. How did sportsmen come to wear bright colours in the first place, for example? Presumably heraldry has something to do with it, but we should be told. Still, this is an entertaining rifle through football's wardrobe.

Chris Mawme

TOP TEN BOOKS

- 1 Football Memories, Brian Glanville (Virgo, hardback, £16.99)
 - 2 Wisden Cricketers' Almanack 1998-1999, (Harcourt Grant Books, hardback £19.99)
 - 3 ESPN Information Please Sports Almanac, ed Gerry Brown, Michael Harrison (Hyperion, paperback, £10.50)
 - 4 Made in Leeds: 'Square Ball' since 1889, (Square Ball, paperback, £3.95)
 - 5 Celebrating 75 Years of the Football League, (The Football League, paperback, £16.95)
 - 6 Dell Diamonds: Ted Bates's first 50 seasons with the Saints, David Bull (Falcon Publishing, hardback, £19.99)
 - 7 Best American Sports Writing 1988 ed Bill Littlefield (Houghton Mifflin, paperback, £6.99)
 - 8 Angry White Pyjamas, Robert Twigger (Indigo, paperback, £6.99)
 - 9 Twelve Grands: The Gambler As Hero, Jonathan Rendell (Yellow Jersey, paperback, £10)
 - 10 From Save 'The Bridge To Wembley: A Decade of Writing for the Chelsea Independent, edited by Mark Meehan (CSCA, paperback, £11.99)
- Compiled by Sportspages, 24-26 Chichester Road, London, W11 2 8H and St Ann's Square, Manchester, M16 2 8JZ 8530 and www.sportspages.co.uk

From the ruins of his old life, Carling treads a difficult path



RICHARD WILLIAMS

The last four months have not been kind to his reputation, the commodity on which his prosperity rests

A SHINY mobile phone pressed to his ear, Will Carling locked the doors of the navy Jaguar XK8 before striding up the drive of the four-star hotel.

Not exactly sackcloth and ashes, then.

It was tempting to look for signs of contrition in the familiar stocky figure. This time last year Will Carling had settled into a comfortable existence as a retired sporting idol. You could see him on ITV, fronting the game's new era. His businesses were prospering. He was looking ahead to a 21st testimonial game at Twickenham, an unprecedented salute. Beyond that lay other lucrative projects, including an autobiography and a lecture tour.

Twelve months later, the whole thing lies in ruins. His decision to leave the mother of his baby son and to move in with the wife of a former team-mate proved one of those incidents on which a life can pivot. Having feasted on his did-the-didn't they relationship, with Princess Di, the tabloids decided that his abandonment of Ali Cockayne, Gary Lineker's sister-in-law, represented something else altogether. Will Carling, in their view, had strayed permanently offside.

And he is paying the price, all right, in a manner the ancient Greeks would have recognised. As he sat in the bar at the Petersham Hotel in Richmond on Friday, old fellows in blazers and their wives glanced at him with restrained curiosity as they downed their pre-lunch gin. You could see them adjusting their instinctive recognition to take account of more recent factors. Younger people tend to be hunter. That morning a woman had said to me, with some asperity: "Tell him he's a prat."

Even at the height of his success, when he was leading England to three Grand Slams as captain, he was seen by some as a smug git. So a certain amount of sardonic amusement greeted the news last month of his decision to don the motley once more and return to Harlequins, a year after he had walked out of the club following a dispute with the coach, Andy Keast, and a mere four months after he published an autobiography that concluded: "I don't miss rugby and I don't regret the decision to quit."

When we met, last Friday he had been due to travel with Quins to Gloucester, but had just declared himself unfit. A back twinge, he said, although generally speaking his fitness didn't seem to be a problem. "I've read certain reports about how you can't hope to be out for so long and come back and do it," he said. "But I was thinking the other day about how Jerry [Guscott] was out for a year when he had a groin injury. The thing is, when you come back you feel better than when you had to stop. You feel great. You've had a rest."

But presumably, during his hiatus, he had maintained a fitness regime to keep himself in trim. "No. No weight training, no nothing." He gave a laddish chuckle. "I haven't admitted that to anybody." Not even a few press-ups in the bathroom? "No. About six runs, that's all." Had he played any other sport? "No. But I've lost nearly two stone in the last year." How? Why? "Dunno. Certain amount of stress, possibly."

Yes indeed. The last four months have not been kind to his reputation, the commodity on which his prosperity rests. His book came out during the scandal, and sold poorly. The testimonial was cancelled, along with the lecture tour. His television contract was not renewed.

Yet the decision to return to playing is, he claims, motivated neither by the money (which is nothing like the annual 150K that Quins were paying him before he retired) nor by a need to restore his public image. The reasons, according to him, are both simpler and more profound.

"There's no doubt that it's comforting playing rugby," he said. "It's what I've done for years and years,

and it's lovely to go back into a group of people, like other people in my life, who have no interest in certain areas. All that's irrelevant because they know me. I've gone back because I want to do it. I want to play well and leave a different memory at Harlequins."

The club's New Zealand management troupe – John Gallagher, Zinzan Brooke and Bernie McCall – had been asking him, he said, ever since they took over from the sacked Keast. "At the beginning, I just didn't feel the desire. I was being approached and offered God knows what from all sorts of clubs, in terms of money, and I said no to everyone." Hadn't he, as the papers alleged, initiated approaches to clubs in France and Wales? "No."

And then, two days before he was due to leave for Japan on business in mid-January, Gallagher made another call. He persuaded Carling to go and watch Quins play London Scottish the next day. "I went into the changing room," Carling said, "to see Jason [Leonard]. It was the first time I'd been in there since I stopped. They have a ceremony now where when you've played a certain amount of games you get a blazer, and they said, 'Come in, Will. So I stayed around and then I went home and I said to a friend, 'That's the first time I've thought, I miss this.' It wasn't the playing. It was the humour, the craic, it was all the boys' stuff."

In Japan, he made his decision. "I know certain people think it's money or PR. It's certainly not money and at the end of the day it's not PR, because there's no way you're going to go on the pitch in the pouring rain and get hit by people that size just for PR. I'm not into that."

Was it a form of rehabilitation? "Maybe for some other people. For me, no."

Thinking back to the woman who had called him a prat, I asked if he hadn't felt the blast of public disapproval.

"None whatsoever. Lots of blasts of public support and sympathy. With what I've read in certain papers, I'd have expected to be stoned in the street. It hasn't happened. Maybe because people realise... I hope they realise... that you don't do it on purpose. It's a bad enough time, and... well."

But surely the return offered him a chance to rebuild the only platform he ever had, and to make himself credible again, at least in business terms?

"There are certain things we're doing at the moment which are going well anyway. I'm going to be the ambassador for the Japanese sevens, for instance, which is going on in April. There are some other long-term projects to do with Japanese rugby. We're going to be doing hospital visits around a number of sports events, starting with the World Cup. All in all, business is very good, very exciting."

In his view, the return to playing involves no risk. "Quins asked me back. I didn't go and say, 'Please give me another chance.' That was flattering. The response I got from the players when I went back was very touching. If I can't be bothered to do



During his break from rugby Will Carling has lost almost two stone, perhaps through stress, despite not training

Robert Hallam

the training and I let myself down, that's a risk. But I'm training hard and I have the desire to do it for three months. In that way I have no risk. In terms of what other people think, I've realised I have no control over that."

His successor as England captain, Lawrence Dallaglio, had made encouraging noises about no door being closed. "I think he was just

interesting chat with Lawrence a few months ago. He said, 'When I was young and you were England captain, I used to think you were a complete... whatever... because you hardly ever played for Harlequins. But after my first season I realised why it's knackered. It's impossible to tell someone what it's like to captain England, and how tiring it is. It's lovely, but it's huge. And

yond this season. He still holds trenchant views on rugby and its administrators – he would select Stranisky for England ("You pick the best available, full stop") and he thinks a European version of the Super 12 offers the only prospect of a Northern Hemisphere nation ever winning the World Cup – but "business is where I want to go, in the long term."

He looked through the windows of the Petersham Hotel, set high on Richmond Hill, and across the Thames towards the dark grey drum of Twickenham. This is where England have gathered before home matches for the past 20 years. This was where Carling gave his team talk on his debut as captain, staring into the hard, experienced eyes of men like Wade Dooley, Peter Winterbottom and Jeff Probyn.

"I always used to have the room two floors above here," he said. "Same room every time. In the days when I was first captain, you'd pull in here on a Wednesday evening. You'd spend Monday and Tuesday on your own, and all you could think about was everything

that could go wrong. Then you'd get to the hotel and see guys like Wade and Winters and you'd think, 'It's going to be all right.' So I loved getting here. You could switch off from the world. It was rugby, and that was it."

He paused. "Stupid little memories. On Fridays we'd have a run-out, and come back and they'd have lovely big thick white towels. You'd have a hot bath, wrap yourself up in about three of those towels, lie on the bed and sleep for a couple of hours. I used to love that. And that evening I used to stand on my balcony and look out and see Twickenham."

They must seem a long time ago, the days when he could raise his arms to salute Twickenham's adoring throng and then choose whether to celebrate by beating up a hotel bar with his mates from the SAS or by staring into the eyes of a willowy blonde over a candlelit dinner.

He is, as he says, a man of contradictions. And as he grapples with fate, sometimes even the smuggest of gits, which he may or may not be, can be forgiven his moment of pathos.

'With what I've read in certain papers, I'd have expected to be stoned in the street. But it hasn't happened'

being polite. I have no aspiration for it. With Harlequins it's a matter of unfinished business, and I don't feel I have any unfinished business with England."

Inevitably, his reappearance has been greeted with cynicism by those who accused him of showing little interest in club rugby during his England days. "It's like anything in life. You have priorities. I had an

it basically takes over your life. And although I came out and said that England was my priority, I think any rugby player would say that. They just don't say it because it doesn't look right. But I don't think many players would put their club before their country. Because when you're five or six years old, you dream of playing for England."

He can't see his return lasting be-

THE WEEK AHEAD: MAIN EVENTS

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL: Worthington Cup: semi-final, second leg: Wimbledon (0) v Tottenham (0). The latest episode in the draw-heavy mini-series must produce a finalist from this fixture, even if matters have to be settled on penalties.

RUGBY UNION: Clive Woodward is due to name his England side for Saturday's Five Nations match against Scotland. The main issue to be decided is who will play at outside-half, with three contenders vying for the spot. Northampton's Paul Grayson, Bath's Mike Catt and Newcastle's Johnny Wilkinson are the men in the running. Grayson and Catt have not shown great form recently; Wilkinson has, but mainly at centre.

WEDNESDAY

FOOTBALL: Premiership: Manchester United v Arsenal is the pick of the midweek matches, with United four points clear at the top of the table and in good form, and Arsenal, sitting in third, also on a roll. At the same stage of last season, Alex Ferguson's men were assumed to be well on their way to the title,

but an Arsenal purple patch (10 consecutive wins, including a win at Old Trafford in the equivalent of this fixture) brought that to an end. The pick of the day's other matches will see second-placed Chelsea at home to Blackburn and fourth-placed Aston Villa hosting seventh-placed Leeds United.

Worthington Cup: semi-final, second leg: Leicester (2) v Sunderland (1). Peter Reid's side may be eight points clear in the First Division and as close to certainties as it is possible to be for promotion, but they stumbled in the first leg of this tie and will face a stern test in attempting to overcome the deficit. Martin O'Neill's Foxes have not been playing to their potential in the Premiership this season but this competition offers the best chance of European football next season and that is sure to add motivation.

FRIDAY

FOOTBALL: Nationwide League First Division: Sheffield United v Bradford City. Having been deprived after an unjust result in the FA Cup, the Blades will attempt to close the gap between themselves

(10th) and those vying for a play-off place. Bradford will be looking to maintain their challenge for the second automatic promotion spot.

SATURDAY

RUGBY UNION: Five nations: All eyes will be on England as they take their bow in this year's competition at Twickenham against Scotland. Wales, who lost their opener to the Scots, play 'at home' at Wembley against Ireland, who were unlucky losers against the French in Dublin in their first match.

RACING: Teetion Mill, the nation's latest favourite grey, runs in the Mitsubishi Shogun Chase at Ascot. It will be the horse's first outing since winning the King George VI Chase at Kempton on Boxing Day last year and will give his supporters the chance to see if whippers about his well-being in recent weeks have any truth in them. The rumour mill suggests Teetion Mill – second-favourite to Florida Peach for the Cheltenham Gold Cup and also second favourite to Double Thriller for the Grand National – has met with a setback, but Venezuela Williams, his trainer, has angrily denied this.

TODAY

Terrestrial: 14.10-14.45 BBC2 Sporting Greats: Eamon Holmes talks to PR Williams, one of the luminaries of Wales's golden era of rugby union.
14.45-15.30 BBC2 Match of the Day: Gary Cooke takes Alan Hansen through his illustrious career.
00.30-04.40 CS Line and Dangerous: All-night magazine.
14.00-17.00, 19.00-22.00 Sky Sports 2: Live snooker: Scottish Open.

TOMORROW

Terrestrial: 14.10-14.40 BBC2 Sporting Greats: Snooker's Ray Reardon.
20.00-22.00 (carrington extra time) ITV The Big Match: Live Second leg of the Worthington Cup semi-final (0-0 in the first leg) 00.30-04.40 CS Line and Dangerous: All-night motor sport at 01.10 and Asian football at 03.45.
14.00-17.00, 19.00-22.00 Sky Sports 2: Live snooker: European Live Snooking.
16.00-18.00 Eurosport Live Snooking: World Cup action from Manila.
18.00-20.00 Sky Cinema: Film Pleasure and Pain (1992) Tony Curtis stars as a delirious boxer struggling against adversity.
18.30-20.00 Eurosport Live: Athletics: IAAF indoor meeting in Madrid.
20.00-22.00 Eurosport Live: Snooking: World Cup action from Manila.

TODAY

International lightweight bout: Bruno Wertzle v Pablo Sarmiento.

WEDNESDAY

Terrestrial: 14.10-14.45 BBC2 Sporting Greats: Eric Bristow in the chair.
14.45-15.30 BBC2 Match of the Day: Gordon Barnes.
21.00-21.50 BBC2 Modern Times: Miscellaneous of the Rich and Famous: Terry Venables makes an appearance in this first of a new series of the documentary strand, talking about what it feels like when you're removed from the public gaze. Let it never be said that Terry's a dummy.
22.30-23.10 BBC1 Match of the Day: Highlights of the Premiership tie at point-to-point between Man Utd and Arsenal.
00.05-04.35 CS Live: Hockey: Anaheim Mighty Ducks v Phoenix Coyotes table-topping encounter that sounds like a face-off between two sets of cartoon characters.
00.10-04.05 CS Live and Dangerous: All-night magazine.
00.45-03.10 CS Maccas: Football: Italia Round-up of last weekend's action.
05.10-04.05 CS Transworld Sport: All-night magazine, repeated from Saturday.
10.30-13.30 Sky Sports 1: Live Golf: The Qatar Masters.
14.00-15.00 Eurosport Live: Tennis: From the men's ATP event in Rotterdam.
14.00-17.00 Sky Sports 2: 19.00-22.00 Sky Sports 3: Snooker: Scottish Open.
16.00-18.00 Eurosport Live: Snooking: World Cup action from Manila.

THE WEEK AHEAD: SPORT ON TELEVISION

TODAY

19.00-22.00 Sky Sports 1: Live Football: Man Utd v Arsenal.
19.00-22.00 Sky Sports 2: Live Football: Second leg of the Worthington Cup semi-final – Leicester City v Sunderland, with the Foxes 2-1 up from the first leg.
22.00-23.00 Sky Sports 3: Live Snooker: Scottish Open.

THURSDAY

Terrestrial: 14.10-14.45 BBC2 Sporting Greats: Sharon Davies in the chair.
14.45-15.30 BBC2 Match of the Day: Ian St John, the second former Liverpool player this week to be accorded the Gary Cooke treatment.
21.30-22.30 BBC1: Playing the Field: Castelfield Blues, the women's football team from south Yorkshire, are back. Apparently, there's not a great deal of football in this first episode of the seven-part series.
22.30-23.50 BBC1: They Think It's All Over Again: Does the world really need a repeated series of the four-musical sports quiz? Apparently so.
00.00-04.40 CS Line and Dangerous: All-night magazine.
10.30-13.30 Sky Sports 1: Live Golf: The Qatar Masters.
14.00-15.00 Eurosport Live: Tennis: From the men's ATP event in Rotterdam.
14.00-17.00, 19.00-22.00 Sky Sports 2: Snooker: Scottish Open.
16.00-18.00 Eurosport Live: Snooking: World Cup action from Manila.

FRIDAY

Terrestrial: 14.10-14.45 BBC2 Sporting Greats: Jockey Bob Champion.
14.45-15.30 BBC2 Match of the Day: Footballing legend, as yet unconfirmed, Satellite.
08.30-11.00 Sky Sports 1: Live: Hockey: Sailing World Championships from Ramau, Austria – Men's 50m cross-country.
10.30-13.30 Sky Sports 1: Live Golf: From the Qatar Masters.
12.00-17.00 Sky Sports 2, 19.00-22.00 Sky Sports 3: Snooker: Scottish Open.
17.30-19.00 Eurosport Live: Tennis: Women's event in Hovvor.
19.00-22.00 Sky Sports 2: Live Football: Sheffield United v Bradford City.
19.00-20.30 Eurosport Live: Athletics: IAAF indoor meeting from Ghent, Belgium.
20.00-22.00 Sky Sports 3: Live Ice: Hockey: Manchester Storm v Bracknell Bees.
20.30-22.30 Sky Sports 1: Live Football: Spanish Cup quarter-final between Barcelona and Valencia.

SATURDAY

Terrestrial: 08.00-09.00 CS Transworld Sport: 09.00-10.00 CS: Wrestling: Live: Raging.
10.00-11.00 CS: Snooker: Raging with Thierry Lacroix.
14.00-12.00 CS: Gazzetta: Football: Italia.

TODAY

12.00-12.30 CS: Board Stupid: 12.30-13.00 High 5.
13.15-17.40 BBC1: Grandstand (Final score at 4.40) including racing from Ascot and rugby union.
13.10-13.45 ITV: Times vary from region to region: On the Ball: The Vernon and North Snow.
13.45-14.30 ITV: NBA.
14.00-15.30 CS: Sportsweek on 5.
14.30-17.00 CS: Racing from Newcastle and Warwick.
16.30-17.40 ITV: (except Angus, 16.45-17.40, and not TV) Rugby Union: Highlights of England v Scotland.
22.40-23.50 BBC1: Match of the Day: Main match: Country City v Manchester United.
19.00-21.00 Sky Sports 1: Live Basketball: London Towers v Newcastle.

SUNDAY

Terrestrial: 13.30-17.10 BBC2: Sunday Grandstand.
13.45-16.00 CS: Football: Italia: International v Lazio.
00.25-00.55 CS: Sports Talk.
00.55-04.40 CS: NHL: Ice hockey: Satellite.
14.00-17.00, 19.00-22.00 Sky Sports 1: Live Snooker: Scottish Open.
15.00-18.00 Sky Sports 1: Ford Super: Sunday Wimbledon v Aspin Villa, 18.00-20.30 Wetherwell v Celtic.
20.00-23.00 Sky Sports 2: Ford Golf: USA Live from the Nissan Open.

هكمان القمل

Everton ready for a new era

IN 2022, it will be a teaser on a *Question of Sport* - "Why did a winning manager offer the opposition a replay following a 2-1 home win in the fifth round of the 1989 FA Cup?" And the gifted-but-troublesome England midfielder Regan Gascoigne will rack his brains (every one of them inherited from his mother's side of the family) and say: "It's not fair, I always got the hard ones."

I spent yesterday trying to get worked up on Sheffield United's behalf following Nwankwo Kanu's shameless opportunism, or as Steve Bruce put it, "un gentlemanly conduct". But I failed. After all, isn't football already a study in ungentlemanly conduct?

Consider the professional foul. The penalty-seeking dive. The attempts to get opposing players sent off, as perpetrated by Steven "Kenneth Branagh" Bilić on Laurent Blanc in the semi-final of the World Cup. And consider too the near-canonisation of Robbie Fowler when he told a referee that Liverpool did not deserve a penalty. That was like praising a man for not robbing a bank.

The convention of booting the ball

back to the opposition when a game is restarted after a player has received medical attention is worthy enough. But let's not delude ourselves that it is anything but an anachronistic gesture from a cynical game in which cheats often prosper. And having got that off my chest, let me now focus on the far more astonishing events of the weekend, namely the goals by Francis Jeffers and John O'Sullivan which beat Coventry and took Everton into the quarter-finals of the Cup.

Surgeons can give pigs' hearts to humans, aeroplanes can fly faster than the speed of sound, I can sell an eight-year-old Volvo in cyberspace. Hale and Pace can get their own television series, but until Saturday Everton could not score more than a single goal at Goodison Park. The statistics are shocking. In the Premiership, this season's top scorers at Goodison is Manchester United. And United have scored 45 more League goals than Everton. A difference of 45 goals, half-way through February. Dixie Dean will be turning in his grave. Bob Latchford will be kicking the cat.

Yet we Evertonians don't care about any of that now, and those of



BRIAN VINER
Let's focus on the astonishing events at Goodison rather than an anachronistic gesture from a cynical game where cheats often prosper

us with longish memories can't help recalling that League form was also pretty dire in 1989-90, until the fabled Kevin Brock back-pass at Oxford United led to Adrian Heath, whose goal arguably sparked off a chain of events which led to a Milk Cup final against Liverpool, an FA Cup, two League championships and a European Cup-Winners Cup, all in the space of three seasons.

I'm reasonably certain that nothing like that will happen this time. But even so, it was heart-warming - if a trifle disorientating - to hear Stuart Hall say on *Radio 5 Live* that Everton were "a revelation bordering on the brilliant today".

Never mind that he used to heap exactly the same sort of praise on the *It's A Knockout* team from Weston-super-Mare which, despite wearing Tweedledum and Tweedledee costumes, managed to avoid being knocked off rope ladders with giant sponges thrown by the team from Leighton Buzzard. I'm sure that he knows what he's talking about, football-wise. Even if nobody else does.

Last week, incidentally, more than 50 MPs with nothing better to do, signed a parliamentary motion congratulating Stuart Hall on 40

years in broadcasting. "His use of the English language - especially in football reporting - has made him an icon with the youth of today," declared the motion. "His rich, mellifluous voice is redolent of Sinden and Gielgud, intertwining Shakespeare, Keats, Wordsworth et al, amid the mud and tears at Accrington Stanley."

Actually, it sounded suspiciously as if he wrote it himself. And I don't think he spends much time at Accrington Stanley any more. But I have to say that the old boy's verbose meanderings on *Sports Report* have given me much pleasure through the years, and have brightened up many a forlorn drive home from Goodison Park.

These days, I only get to see Everton when they play in London, usually with my friend Chris, whose distinctive Liverpool accent can sometimes be a liability.

I recall sitting in the main stand during a game at Stamford Bridge a few years ago, which Everton were leading 1-0 with five minutes to go. To my horror, Chris's emotions suddenly overcame his brain, and he stood up and yelled "Come on, ref, blow the bloody whistle!"

As 30 or 40 very disapproving faces turned our way, he had to make that snap decision familiar to many people who follow their teams away from home. Loyalty or survival? Mercifully, he chose survival and, mustering a passable West London accent, added, at the top of his voice, "before those Scouse bastards get another bleeding goal!"

LETTER FROM

DUBAI

Where else in the world would it be possible to watch Colin Montgomerie in the afternoon, Tim Henman in the evening and Frankie Dettori before bedtime

A desert fantasy made real

THE TEMPTATION was to pop this dispatch from Dubai in a green pillar box outside Ballinasloe Post Office, which is just as Irish as it sounds. Fortunately I was warned that the post box is purely ornamental, unlike the rest of the replica Irish village, which was shipped from Dublin and built into the side of the \$7m (€4.32m) tennis stadium here. Even the Guinness has travelled well.

It is not a mirage. Nor was the feast of sport on offer here last week. Where else in the world would it be possible to see Colin Montgomerie play a \$1.36m PGA Tour event in the afternoon, watch Tim Henman take part in a \$1m tennis tournament in the evening, and catch Frankie Dettori at the track before bedtime (albeit finishing second on a horse named Playacting)?

Investment in high-profile sports events has helped Dubai's rulers convert a desert into an international centre for trade, tourism and entertainment. In the knowledge that within the next 25 years they will have no oil to sell, "Many oil countries live entirely on their oil, but less than 25 per cent of our economy is from oil," says Sheikh Mohammed, the Crown Prince of Dubai, the world's wealthiest owner of race horses, and the motivator of most of what moves here.

This morning the build-up to the fourth running of the world's richest horse race, the \$5m Dubai World Cup, sponsored by Emirates Airlines, on Sunday 28 March, is due to gather momentum with a press conference at the local Ritz-Carlton Hotel, featuring a slide presentation of possible contenders. The purse has been increased this year by \$1m to stay ahead of the field.

Next may come a move to stage the \$3.6m ATP Tour Championship,

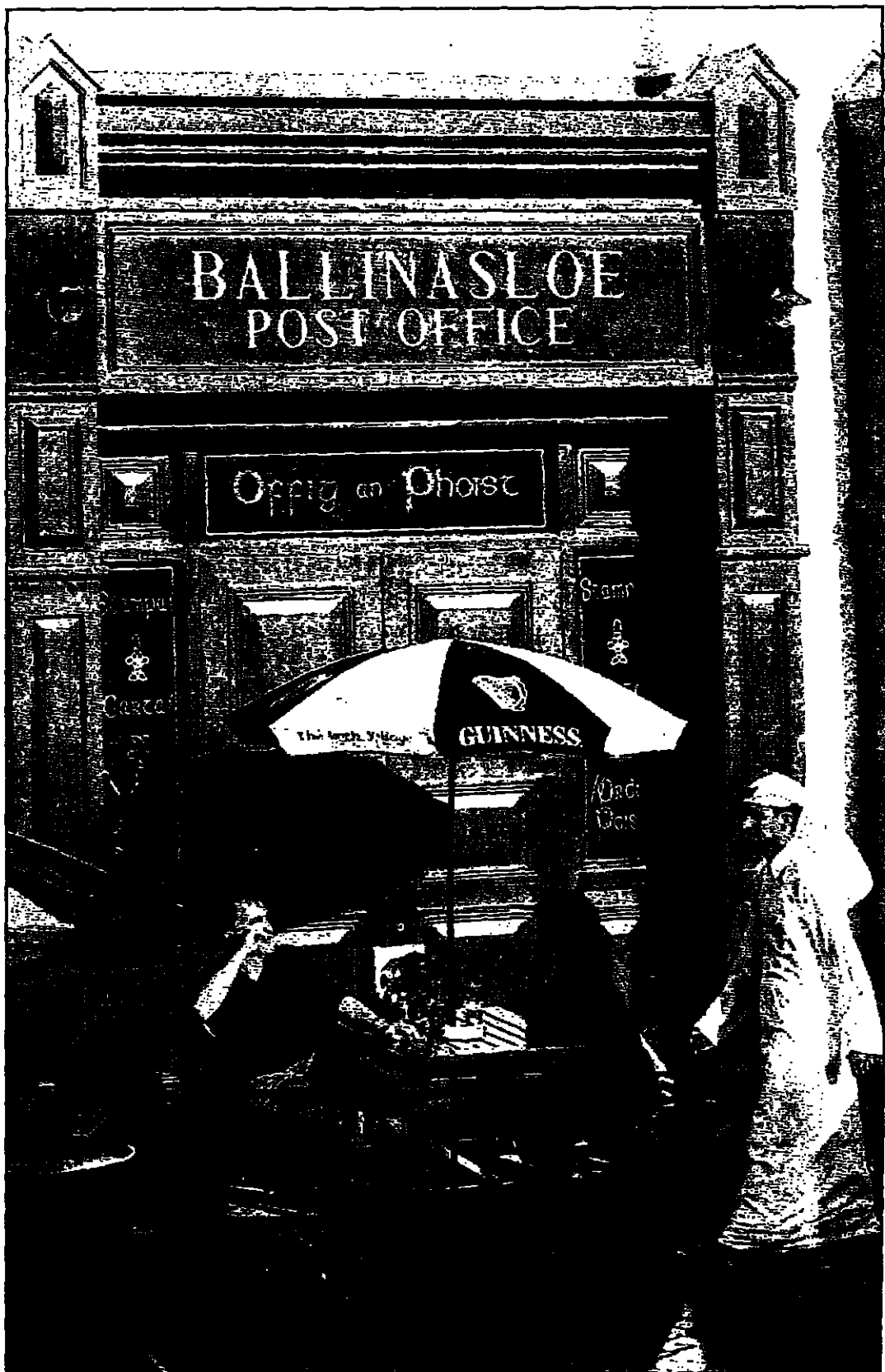
the finale to the men's tennis tour, which is open to offers now that its residence in Hanover is about to end in November.

Big-time sport arrived here in a duty free bag carried by Colm McLoughlin, whose home in Ireland is the real village of Ballinasloe (pop. 6,000) in County Galway. His father, Thadgh, 91, and mother, Mel, 81, still live there. The middle of five children, McLoughlin's two older brothers, Ray and Felidm, played rugby for Ireland, Ray captaining the country in the 1960s and also playing for the Lions.

Colm McLoughlin, 55, worked his way to general manager of the duty free shops at Shannon Airport, via a Didcot canning factory, a Walls meat factory and jobs in London as an encyclopaedia salesman, a trolley-bus conductor and a stockroom boy at Woolworths in Acton, rising to deputy manager of the Oxford Street branch.

In 1983, Dubai Civil Aviation, through its Irish counterpart, invited McLoughlin to help them establish a duty free operation at the airport. He came on a four-month consultancy, bringing with him two compatriots, John Sutcliffe and George Horan. They have been here ever since. McLoughlin as managing director.

McLoughlin, encouraged by Sheikh Mohammed, began to promote Dubai through sport, starting in 1988 with the Dubai Duty Free Snooker Classic. Golf, powerboat racing and basketball followed, and Dubai Duty Free has owned and organised the tennis tournament since 1993, McLoughlin becoming a key figure in initiating and overseeing the construction of the stadium, which was completed in five months, the last touch of paint being applied



All very Irish: A village which has been shipped over from Dublin and rebuilt in Dubai

on the eve of the 1996 event. The stadium is also used for concerts, and Chris Eubank has performed, his weight there.

The bar-restaurant in the Irish Village, which has a staff of 25 from Ireland, flourishes all year round. McLoughlin rates it the busiest in Dubai. The flagstones on the terrace are from a quarry in the west of Ireland, and the cobblestones are from Dublin. The post

box may not be in use, but it is possible to make calls from the Irish telephone box.

McLoughlin made a small confession. When the signwriters were working on the replica post office, he asked what name they were going to use. He was told Westport, a town in the west of Ireland. Tongue-in-cheek, he asked them to make it Ballinasloe so that he could photograph it and show his father that the

old post office had been transferred to the Middle East.

The Dubai tennis tournament has won the ATP Tour's "Award for Excellence" for player services. Alex Corretja, of Spain, the ATP Tour champion, marked the occasion by presenting McLoughlin with a crystal trophy. Waterford crystal, naturally.

JOHN ROBERTS

THE WEEK AHEAD: FIXTURES

TODAY
FOOTBALL: Nationwide Conference: Kidderminster v Nuneaton
RUGBY LEAGUE (3.0): Salford v Barrow (4.0); Salford v Barrow (4.0); Salford v Barrow (4.0)
RACING: Newcastle (2.0): Plumpton (1.50); SOUTHWELL (All-weather Flat, 2.10)

TOMORROW
FOOTBALL (7.45 unless stated): The Worthington Cup semi-final second leg: Wrexham v Torquay (8.05)
RUGBY LEAGUE: Wigan v Wakefield (7.30); Salford v Barrow (7.30); Salford v Barrow (7.30)
RACING: Newcastle (1.50); WOLVERHAMPTON (All-weather Flat, 2.10); FOLKESTONE (All-weather Flat, 2.10)

WEDNESDAY
FOOTBALL (7.45 unless stated): The Worthington Cup semi-final second leg: Leicester v Sunderland (8.05)
RUGBY LEAGUE: Aston Villa v Leeds (8.05); Blackpool v Wigan (8.05); Blackpool v Wigan (8.05)
RACING: Southwell (2.0); Leicester (1.50); LINGFIELD (All-weather Flat, 2.10)

THURSDAY
RUGBY UNION: Chesham and Maidenhead v Bath (7.30)
RUGBY LEAGUE: Salford v Barrow (7.30); Salford v Barrow (7.30)
RACING: Southwell (2.0); Leicester (1.50); LINGFIELD (All-weather Flat, 2.10)

FRIDAY
FOOTBALL (7.45 unless stated): Nationwide Conference: Kidderminster v Nuneaton (8.05)
RUGBY LEAGUE: Salford v Barrow (7.30); Salford v Barrow (7.30)
RACING: Southwell (2.0); Leicester (1.50); LINGFIELD (All-weather Flat, 2.10)

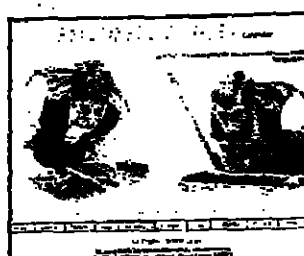
SATURDAY
FOOTBALL (3.0 unless stated): FA Cup: Reading v Arsenal (3.0); Reading v Arsenal (3.0); Reading v Arsenal (3.0)
RUGBY LEAGUE: Salford v Barrow (7.30); Salford v Barrow (7.30)
RACING: Southwell (2.0); Leicester (1.50); LINGFIELD (All-weather Flat, 2.10)

SUNDAY
FOOTBALL: FA Cup: Reading v Arsenal (3.0); Reading v Arsenal (3.0)
RUGBY LEAGUE: Salford v Barrow (7.30); Salford v Barrow (7.30)
RACING: Southwell (2.0); Leicester (1.50); LINGFIELD (All-weather Flat, 2.10)

BIRTHDAYS
Tomorrow: John McEneaney, tennis player (born 1959)
Wednesday: Michael Jordan, former basketball player (1963)
Thursday: Bobby Robson, football coach (1933)
Friday: Rob Andrew, rugby player (1933)
Saturday: Jimmy Greaves, former footballer, now TV pundit (1930)
Sunday: Charlie Barlow, football player (1933)

SPORT ON THE INTERNET

ANDY OLDFIELD



TELEVISION AUDIENCES for snooker have diminished since the 1980s, but small-screen aficionados can get a green-haze fix on demand on their PC monitors courtesy of the World Wide Web.

WWW Snooker is a good starting point if access to facts and figures appeals. It does not take much ferreting there to find that in the Regal Scottish Open at Aberdeen this week the Scot John Higgins will try to go one better than last year where he lost in the final 5-9 to Ronnie O'Sullivan.

There is a vast amount of information on the site about players and rankings, as well as past and present tournaments with coverage of the qualifying stages. Reading about those who fell before the first round proper in Aberdeen is like consulting a who-what-who of a previous generation: Kirk Stevens, Tony Knowles, and Dennis Taylor all failed to make the cut. Stevens even failed to make the venue.

A chat room for talking online is a feature that is becoming a standard on Web sites. WWW Snooker provides one that is fast and easy to use with message updates every 15 seconds. If you want to know where to find snooker video footage on the Web, sign in. Someone posted that particular request on Saturday, there ought to be some answers there by now.

Eric Whitehead is a photographer who specialises in snooker. His site, Snooker Images, is a portfolio and an information resource. He boasts an online gallery going back 20 years, and has a blank page set up ready to display pictures from this year's Scottish Open. As well as graphics, there are plenty of words - features, news, player biographies and a

calendar of dates and venues for the season's major competitions. Tom Phillips maintains the Jimmy White Snooker Site, an online shrine to Jimmy White MBE who won the Scottish Masters in 1981. There are the usual links, guestbook, results and news pages. "Sightings of the Whirlwind off the table" sounds like it could be tabloid territory, but it turns out to be an archive of White-friendly media coverage where interviews and profiles of the man are collected.

Being an unofficial site, there is some bite in these pages. If you follow the links to the irony page you're left in no doubts as to the site owner's feelings about certain other players on the circuit.

Those more interested in their own prowess on the table can put themselves in the frame by brushing up on their techniques with a visit to the Embassy World Snooker Online Guide where John Virgo outlines a couple of neat trick shots. Fortunately, the page omits the script for his banter with the audience at exhibitions.

If you don't have chalk and a cue, Virtual Snooker could be worth a try. At the Web site, you can download a demo of this fiendishly good PC snooker simulation. With the full version you can enter virtual contests and take on other players over the Internet.

SITE ADDRESSES

WWW Snooker
<http://www.stud.ifi.uio.no/~hermunda/Snooker/>
Snooker Images
<http://www.snookerimages.co.uk/>
Jimmy White Snooker Site
<http://acorn.educ.nottingham.ac.uk/SchEd/pages/jws/welcome>
Snooker Guide
http://www.embassysnooker.com/Guide/Page_17.asp
Virtual Snooker
<http://www.interplay.com/games/snooker.html>

QUESTIONNAIRE

ROGER BLACK, FORMER ATHLETE

Who should be the next England football manager? Kevin Keegan, an old favourite of mine from the days when I used to watch Southampton.

What was the last book you read? *Against the Wall*, by Simon Yates. It's all about mountain climbing.

When was the last time you cried over a sporting event? I cried while I was warming down after the AAA trials last summer, when Solomon Wariso beat me to third place in the 400 metres and was subsequently picked for the World Championships.

What sort of curry do you prefer? A mild one. I'm a korma man rather than a vindaloo man.

What is your most valuable possession? My dog, Jasper. I don't regard my fiancée, Elsa, as a possession!



What was your most embarrassing moment? When I had to be shown how to set up my blocks by Kriss Akabusi before my first international at Gosford. I'd never used them before.

Which sporting figure would you like to sit next to on a 36-hour journey? Boris Becker. I'm sure we would have a lot to talk about, and not just on the subject of sport. Perhaps we would have some things in common.

Faith healing - brilliant or bunkum? If you believe it, it's brilliant. If you don't, it's bunkum. It's a matter of faith.

Where do you stand on feng shui? Towards the back of the room, on the left hand side, making sure I'm not covering any windows.

Is your glass half full or half empty? Half full. More than half full, in fact.

SPORTING VERNACULAR

1. SKIING

WITH THE World Alpine Championships coming to an end in Colorado yesterday, it is timely to reflect that for most people it is a common experience for the word "skid", with its connotation of being out of control, to bear a close relation to the word "ski" (with its connotation of being out of control).

And indeed, this turns out to be the case. Though 19th century British ski burns are usually credited with inventing the sport, the word itself comes, unsurprisingly, from Norway, where a "skid" was originally simply a piece of wood split

from a tree trunk, then later a snow shoe. The Old Norse word was "skith", which in turn came from the Germanic word "skait", the root from which we get the words "sketch" and "shed".

From "skith" also comes "skid", which originally signified a block of wood for stopping a wheel, later taking on the idea of a wheel slipping when it is prevented from revolving. In 1755, the *Monthly Review* reported that peasants were wading through the snow on "skies", and from there it was a smooth ride to Colorado.

CHRIS MAUME

England have to rethink strategy

ENGLAND went to the Carlton & United Series to establish a solid foundation for the World Cup. By the time they left here yesterday they were confronted with the alarming task of having three months in which to build something substantial on a lump of jelly.

One of the more concise verdicts after their 2-0 defeat and ultimate, irrevocable collapse in the final of the triangular one-day tournament was: "We started it brightly but by the end it had all come tumbling round our ears." Since this was delivered by the team manager and the chairman of selectors, David Graveney, the severity of the conclusion should not be doubted.

Graveney was typically candid and rational in assessing the potential damage of the later performances in the competition. England's 163-run defeat at the MCG in the second final was their second worst in the 28 years of limited-overs international. Their total of 110 was their sixth defeat in seven matches. The chances of those who were not chosen for the Australian tour now appearing in the World Cup have risen accordingly. Enormously, that is.

"It would be a dangerous path for us to go down to alter our side radically now," said Graveney. "Before the last World Cup they were changing the team every other game. The batsmen we've had here I still believe are the best we've got in this form of cricket. At some stage you have to back your judgement and say that's your team."

No wholesale changes then but Graveney knows and all but acknowledged that the squad of 15 for the World Cup will not be derived wholly - as looked possible when they started blazing a trail five weeks ago - from the 16 who took part in the Carlton & United. Graham Thorpe is the obvious contender for a place in the middle order. He left the Ashes tour early with a recurrence of his back injury but it has apparently responded well to arduous examination. He will be back, back or no back. Michael Atherton is another

CRICKET
By STEPHEN BRECKLEY
in Melbourne

who will now be seriously considered to open and it is possible that Alec Stewart, despite his preference, will drop down the order again. As Mark Ramprakash contributed so effectively in the Test series it would be silly not to discuss him until there is a unanimous decision to place his name on the team sheet. If swashbucklers are needed Matthew Maynard will be mentioned.

These selectors have justifiably made a virtue out of continuity and their loyalty to certain players has been noteworthy. But despite Graveney's calm approach nothing that he said a few hours before the flight home could conceal the hideous mess that England now find themselves in.

The batting is in grave shape. Only Graeme Hick ultimately acquitted himself as well as might have been hoped and expected, scoring three centuries and a half-century in his 12 innings. Hick, unfortunately, is the sort of player who only has to fail twice in a row for the telephone lines to the England and Wales Cricket Board to be jammed demanding his head. It will not be served up. He cannot win the World Cup alone but his contributions will be crucial.

Of the rest, Neil Fairbrother at first enhanced his reputation as a one-day batsman of wonderful temperament and technique but when the ball began to fizz in short of a length on his off stump he was usually found to be obliging in presenting the catchers behind the wicket with something straightforward to get their hands round.

The batting, as Graveney observed, has disappointed for most of the 12 matches of the tournament. The nadir was reached on Saturday but it had been coming. It is a worry that Australia have Michael Bevan, the quickest, smartest (and maybe most selfish) one-day batsman in the world coming in at No 6 and England will prob-



Alec Stewart (left) and Nasser Hussain are a weary looking pair after England's heavy defeat at the MCG on Saturday

ably make do with either Adam Holoake or Vince Wells.

England were given substantial starts far too often. A jaded Stewart adopted the policy of hitting his way out of trouble. Nick Knight scored 315 runs but was escalating out of form. Batsmen have to perform as a unit. England's still do not. Each should have a specific role but they are inflexible.

The bowling performed judiciously and Darren Gough was lordly. He has appeared in all England's 17 international matches this winter. Gough may not quite possess Glenn McGrath's imperious skills but his heart and lungs burst in the cause.

The attack will do well on English pitches in the World Cup in the spring but it is not untouchable. Nor should it be forgotten that other nations also have the sort of medium pace merchants who will profit on the greener tops. Angus Fraser and Peter Martin are candidates to return but the name you can be sure of, it is being said, is Ian Austin.

Englanders, as Denis Rogers, the chairman of the

Australian Cricket Board described this island race at the tournament's presentation ceremony, used to come down under and be derided above all for their fielding. It is not like that any more but they continue to possess one serious shortcoming. The men within the inner circle continually fail to hit the stumps to claim run-outs. It would be wrong to say that Ricky Ponting of Australia never misses but, boy, he hits when it matters. England practice this art seriously and they look highly convincing. If they do not start doing it more often in the middle, or actually doing it at all they can make all the runs they want but they will not win the World Cup.

There is one more aspect of the one-day game which England must develop but may not have the time to do so by May. In his captaincy of Australia in 10 of their 13 games Shane Warne was innovative and adventurous. He changed his bowlers repeatedly (another difference is that he had 10 at his disposal and it was never entirely possible to rule out wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist

sending down a few unplayable off-breaks) and perpetually placed attacking fields, perhaps recklessly so.

Warne himself thought he might have over-indulged this ruse but it perplexed England's batsmen. Australia won the tournament. Stewart, a commendable professional, led the side as England's captain, do, if not by rote, then not with insight and gusto either.

At the start of this latest six-week adventure in the national team's journey it did not seem possible that this sort of inquest would be held. They won four out of five matches and they looked to have learned how to win the close ones. But England have now not only returned whence they started, they are further back than that. At Melbourne on Saturday they were a quivering, wobbly mass when what was demanded was a staunch, upright rock.

There are those among us who believe England can win the World Cup on home soil but to do so the team have to believe it. At present they do not and they have 13 weeks to find the faith.

MELBOURNE SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA		ENGLAND	
1A C Gilchrist c Knight b Croft	52	N V Knight run out	4
95 min, 64 balls, 6 fours		10 min, 9 balls	
M E Waugh c Hick b Gough	1	*A J Stewart c Lee b Julian	32
16 min, 12 balls		60 min, 36 balls, 5 fours	
R T Ponting c Fairbrother	37	G A Hick c Dale b McGrath	0
65 min, 43 balls, 3 fours, 1 six		4 min, 2 balls	
D S Lehmann c Hussain b Wells	71	N Hussain c Gilchrist b McGrath	0
91 min, 75 balls, 4 fours		1 min, 1 ball	
DR Martyn b Mulally	57	N H Fairbrother c Gilchrist b Dale	0
99 min, 80 balls, 2 fours, 1 six		4 min, 2 balls	
S G Law not out	20	V J Wells b Warne	23
30 min, 18 balls, 1 four		73 min, 54 balls	
S Lee not out	20	A J Holoake c Gilchrist b Dale	7
9 min, 9 balls, 2 sixes		6 min, 8 balls	
Extras (lb 10, w 3, nb 1)	14	M A Ealham b Warne	12
Total (For 5, 50 overs)	272	38 min, 35 balls, 1 four	
Falls: 1-11 (Gough), 2-32 (Ponting),		R D Croft not out	13
3-104 (Gilchrist), 4-216 (Lehmann),		35 min, 22 balls, 1 four	
5-244 (Martyn).		D Gough c Gilchrist b Julian	6
Did not bat: B P Julian, *S K Warne,		18 min, 15 balls	
A C Dale, G D McGrath.		A D Mulally b Warne	9
Bowling: Gough 9-1-55-1 (nb 1)		Extras (w 1, nb 3)	4
(5-1-20-1), 2-0-21-0, 2-0-14-0;		Total (21.5 overs)	110
Mulally 10-1-53-1 (w 1) (6-1-21-0),		Falls: 1-9 (Knight), 2-10 (Hick), 3-10	
2-0-9-0, 2-0-23-1; Ealham 6-0-41-0		(Hussain), 4-13 (Fairbrother), 5-43	
(w 1) (3-0-21-0, 1-0-13-0, 2-0-7-0);		(Stewart), 6-50 (Holoake), 7-72	
Wells 5-0-34-1 (3-0-19-0, 2-0-15-1);		(Wells), 8-88 (Ealham), 9-100	
Croft 10-0-40-1 (w 1); Holoake 10-0-39-1		(Gough).	
(one spell each).		Bowling: McGrath 6-0-26-2; Dale	
Progress: 50: 44 min, 66 balls, 100;		10-1-27-2 (one spell each); Julian	
88 min, 126 balls, 150; 135 min, 204		6-2-18-2 (nb 3) (3-0-5-1, 3-2-13-1);	
balls, 200; 165 min, 244 balls, 250;		Wang 4-0-23-0 (w 1); Warne	
201 min, 291 balls, Score after 15		5-5-16-3 (one spell each).	
overs: 68 for 1.		Progress: 50: 55 min, 82 balls, 100;	
Gilchrist 50: 86 min, 61 balls, 6 fours,		124 min, 183 balls, Score after 15	
Lehmann 50: 72 min, 59 balls, 3		overs: 51 for 6.	
fours.		Umpires: D B Hair and D J Harper.	
Martyn 50: 87 min, 72 balls, 2 fours,		AUSTRALIA WON BY 162 RUNS	
1 six.		Man of the series: G A Hick and G	
		D McGrath.	

Compiled by Jo King

England labour as Whiley limps off

BY STEPHEN JACKSON
in Wellington

England Under-19 420
Emerging Wellington XI
282-4

ENGLAND UNDER-19s were made to toil in the field on the second day by Emerging Wellington and also picked up another injury yesterday. Seam bowler Matt Whiley was forced out of the attack with a groin injury after bowling four overs as the home side replied to England's 420 all out with 282 for 4.

The Durham seamer Marc Symington picked up the first wicket to fall when he trapped Suresh de Silva leg before, but fellow opener Leighton Morgan reached his half-century before being caught behind by wicket-keeper John Maunders off medium-pace Giles Haywood.

Joe Considine reached 91 before he was well caught in the gully by Michael Carberry. That wicket was the second of two for Lancashire all-rounder Jonathan Fearick, who had not bowled since the opening match because of a shin injury.

Earlier, opener Leighton Morgan and left-hander Sam Fairley had cracked half-centuries in a game that looked to be heading for a draw.

Second day, England won toss

ENGLAND UNDER-19s - First innings (Overnight: 392 for 8)

M A Whiley c Edwards b Ramping...10
R K Dawson b Edwards...16
M J A Whiley not out...1

Extras (lb 10, w 2, nb 16)...430
Total (113.5 overs).....430

Wellington - First innings
J Morgan c Maunders b Haywood...60
S de Silva b Symington...21

J Considine c Carberry b Fearick...91
S Fairley c Bell b Fearick...61
R Morgan not out...18

S Golder not out...3
Extras (lb 6, w 8, nb 4)...28
Total (For 4, 94 overs).....282

Falls: 1-21 (S de Silva), 2-282
To bat: S Cross, M Drake, L Edwards, C Ramping, J Patel.

Bowling: Whiley 4-1-5-0, Symington 19-5-39-1, Fearick 14-4-49-2, Haywood 18-5-40-1, Dawson 18-2-75-0, Flanagan 18-5-23-0, Alldie 8-2-27-0.

Umpires: R Alexander and I Shine.

Today's Number
11,000
The number of thousands of miles travelled by Australian fan Scot Edwards to see West Brom v Bolton, only to find the game sold out. A spare ticket was found by the club secretary.

Howell earns maiden victory

NOT EVEN a stirring final round by runner-up Lee Westwood, who is shaking off the rust from his game after his recent honeymoon, could prevent David Howell from achieving a commanding victory in the Desert Classic yesterday. Westwood, starting the last day four behind, scored a five-under-par 67. His only problem was that so did Howell, another member of the stable that includes Westwood, Darren Clarke and Paul McGinley, who tied for third with the Ryder Cup captain, Mark James.

Their manager, Chubby Chandler, will have earned more from his percentages this week than many of the players did on the Dubai Creek course. This was Howell's maiden victory on the European tour and it was a good one. The field

GOLF
By ANDY FARRELL
in Dubai

was the strongest so far and the set-up of the course was severe. For much of the back nine, the 22-year-old from Swindon led by six shots before winning by four. His only previous professional win came in Australia.

"This was a fantastic performance from David," Westwood said. "Perhaps he realised he is better than he gave himself credit for." Howell did not look at a leaderboard until the 14th, when he saw he was leading by five, with Westwood the next man back. "I said to myself, 'don't mess it up now', but the way I was playing I was confident of winning," Howell said.

Though his first three years on the European tour did not produce a win, he has steadily improved on the Order of Merit. A steady player, he has become more consistent after turning to Peter Cowen, coach of both Westwood and Clarke.

"I played with David in practice for the Open two years ago and he was long but wild," said James. "Yet to win here shows he kept it under control." There is no doubt Howell will be in contention for a place in James's Ryder Cup team.

"I played in the Walker Cup and that was my ambition in the amateurs," Howell said. "Watching the Ryder Cup on TV gives me such a thrill that I promised myself one day I'll make it."

Westwood missed the cut last week in Malaysia, but

played the last 43 holes without dropping a shot. None of his five birdies came from a putt longer than four feet and his lack of success on the greens showed that his ball-striking was improving again. "That felt more like my normal self," Westwood said. "It was nice to find the middle of the club face." His next appearance will be at the Andersen Consulting World Matchplay in California.

Colin Montgomerie slipped into fifth without being happy on the greens and will see the putting specialist, Dave Feltz, in San Diego during the Matchplay. The line-up for the Matchplay will be decided this morning when Nick Faldo finds out whether to divert from Qatar to California.

Scores, Digest, page 11

Golmard opens his account

JEROME GOLMARD, a semi-finalist at Nottingham last June, took an important step forward last night, winning his first ATP Tour singles title with a straight sets win over Germany's Nicolas Pietrangeli at the \$1m (\$20,000) Dubai Open.

The tall, lean French left-hander entered the tournament ranked No 61 in the world. Subsequent victories against Karol Kucera, the fifth seed, Tim Henman, the third seed, Carlos Moya, the French Open champion and No 2 seed, and the unseeded Kiefer, ranked No 41, will elevate him to a place in the low 30s.

In the opening round, Golmard defeated his compatriot Fabrice Santoro, the winner of the ATP Tour title in Marseille last Sunday. The French, with

TENNIS
By JOHN ROBERTS
in Dubai

six men in the world's top 100, are showing signs of emulating the Spaniards. In addition to the two men's titles this year, French tennis was encouraged by the progress of Amelie Mauresmo to the women's singles final at the Australian Open last month.

Golmard, who served and received with rackets of different stringing tension in order to ease the strain on a sore elbow, only twice dropped more than one point in his nine service games in winning 6-4, 6-2 after 75 minutes.

The first time it happened was in the concluding game of

the first set, when he had to save two break points. The second time was at 3-2 in the second set, when Kiefer took him to 30-30.

Kiefer's serving was erratic, seven double-faults costing him more than the same number of aces (three of them when he was broken for 2-5 in the second set) he could recoup.

It was the German's second match of the day. In the afternoon he had to finish his semi-final against the unseeded Australian Andrew Ilie, which was interrupted by rain on Saturday night after Kiefer had won the opening set.

Yesterday Ilie held two set-points at 6-4 in a second set tie-break. Kiefer recovering to clinch the shoot-out, 6-6, to win 6-3, 7-6. "I was tired because I

had to run a lot in the afternoon," Kiefer said, although it seemed unlikely that the one set he played had drained him of so much energy and inspiration for the second final of his career - he won a title in Toulouse in 1997.

As Golmard pointed out: "In Grand Slams you sometimes have to play five sets in one match, and another five sets the next day." Henman needs no reminding of Golmard's stamina. He was beaten by the Frenchman in the first round of the 1998 Australian Open, 11-9 in the fifth set of the longest match of the tournament (four hours and 19 minutes).

Apart from "realising a dream" by winning the title, the 25-year-old from Dijon left Dubai the richer by \$162,000.

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SPORT

Gebrselassie sweeps to world record

THE EMPEROR is back," said the banner here yesterday. "Others off the track." The faith of an estimated 500 Ethiopian supporters was rewarded as Haile Gebrselassie repeated his world-record breaking exploits of last season in this arena to establish a new mark for the 5,000m and bring the Bupa Grand Prix to a successful climax.

As the volume of his followers reached maximum, the Olympic 10,000m champion crossed the line in 12min 50.38sec, despite having to weave his way around three lapped runners on the final

ATHLETICS
BY MIKE ROWBOTTOM
in Birmingham

bend. His time, for his 15th world record, eclipsed that of 12:51.48 set last year by Kenya's Daniel Komen, who himself had failed earlier in the day to beat the world 2,000m record Gebrselassie set here last February.

Jamie Baulch, silver medalist at the last World Indoor Championships, indicated here yesterday that he is in the kind of form to go one better in Maebashi, Japan, next

month. The Welshman won the 400m in 45.80sec, his fastest time of the season.

"I have big hopes for Maebashi," said Baulch. "I managed a silver last time and I want to go one better. I am not going to say I will win it, but that's what I want."

Colin Jackson's bad luck in the 60m hurdles continued as he was beaten for the second time in a week. The 31-year-old Welshman finished second behind Duane Ross of the United States as a race which had already been recalled twice got under way despite what Jackson believed was a

clear infringement of the rules by Robin Korving of the Netherlands.

Korving, apparently expecting to be penalised, remained near his blocks as the field got away. Ross won in 7.48sec, narrowly ahead of Jackson, who recorded 7.50.

"I definitely thought the race would be recalled for a third false start," said Jackson. Following an International Amateur Athletic Federation rule change last year, starters are obliged to recall fields if the electronic equipment measuring reaction times registers any competitor getting off the

mark in less than 0.01sec from the gun. But such equipment is not installed other than at major championships.

There were other highly promising developments here for British sprinters, as Jason Gardener ran a personal best of 6.52 to finish second in a 60m won by Deji Aliu of Nigeria. And John Regis returned to re-establish his credentials by winning the 200m in 20.50.

Regis has had more time to devote himself to his training following BBC's assumption of the television coverage of domestic events in place of Channel 4, for whom the former

world silver medalist worked as a trackside interviewer.

Meanwhile in Arnstadt, Germany, Britain's Olympic bronze medalist Steve Smith, who claimed he had not been offered sufficient money to appear at yesterday's meeting in Birmingham, maintained his promising return from injury with a jump of 2.27m as he took second place in a specialist meeting.

Smith, who jumped 2.24m on Friday in what was his first competitive appearance since badly injuring his neck last July, will be satisfied that he has proved a point to the or-

ganisers of the British event. Katharine Merry got the event off to a record start when she regained the British indoor 200m mark from Donna Fraser with a time of 22.63.

Within the hour, the international colleague with whom she shares a training base on the outskirts of Birmingham, Ashia Hansen, produced the biggest triple jump of the season but was still unable to call herself a winner.

The world indoor record holder equalled the 14.76m jumped by Sarka Kasparikova with her final attempt, but the athlete from the Czech Re-

public got the verdict by virtue of a better second best effort.

Komen was unable to match Gebrselassie's achievement in the 2,000m. The Kenyan was never a serious challenger in a race won by fellow Kenyan Laban Rotich in 4:56.09, more than three seconds outside Gebrselassie's mark.

Maria Mutola failed in her attempt to beat the 10-year-old world 800m record of 1:56.40, but finished with an all-comers record of 1:58.25.

Janine Whitlock did manage a record - raising her UK pole vault mark to 4.19m.



Wigan need reinforcements to bring down second-rower Adrian Morley during Leeds's memorable Challenge Cup win at Headingley yesterday

Andrew Varley

Self-belief fires Leeds triumph

LEEDS DEFIED the logic that insists that 12 men cannot beat 13 when opponents are so well matched to knock Wigan out of the Challenge Cup for the first time in 31 years.

That they did so after having their prop forward, Barrie McDermott, sent off inside the first 20 minutes yesterday, only underlined the scale of their achievement.

They have had days at Headingley before when they thought they had caught up with Wigan, but the way they took their revenge for last year's Super League Grand Final defeat yesterday suggested that they might finally be right.

McDermott, the former Wigan front-rower whose career

RUGBY LEAGUE
BY DAVE HADFIELD

Leeds 28
Wigan 18

has been littered with these excesses, went off for a horrible high tackle on Simon Haughton, after playing particularly well in the first quarter. Before his self-control snapped, he had contributed to a tremendous, 100 miles-per-hour start by Leeds that brought them a try in the 10th minute when Iestyn Harris and Adrian Morley sent Brad Godden through, Harris landing the first of his goals from the touchline.

Andy Farrell had pulled back

two points with a penalty, but Wigan had barely got into the game before McDermott's dismissal.

"When that happens you think that Wigan might steamroller you," said Leeds' coach, Graham Murray. "Fortunately our players didn't believe that."

Leeds showed they had no intention of bowing to the inevitable by extending their lead, Harris dropping a goal and Daryl Powell then throwing the long pass that enabled Leroy Rivett to shimmy through and score when Paul Johnson showed him too much of the touchline.

Harris again converted from wide out, but Wigan at last seemed to be asserting their

advantage when Farrell and Greg Florimo sent Haughton striding through for a try which Farrell converted.

Immediately before half-time they looked to be taking control when a sweeping cross-field move, again involving Farrell and Florimo ended with Gary Connolly sending in Kris Radlinski.

A one-point lead was surely not enough for Leeds with 40 gruelling minutes still to play, but they scarcely allowed Wigan into the game in the second half.

Their one golden opportunity came after 56 minutes when Jason Robinson came racing out of his own half on the last tackle but Mark Reber, fresh off

the plane from Australia and thrown into a high-pressure match, knocked on with three men outside him, any one of whom could have scored.

Within a minute Leeds' man of the match, Ryan Sheridan, had dropped a goal and a Harris penalty nudged his side further ahead.

The game was then won by two tries in four minutes. Marcus St Hilaire burrowed his way over after Andy Hay was stopped on the line with Farrell going to the sin-bin for protesting too graphically and Sheridan capped his personal contribution with another short-range effort after Godden had been halted. Leeds finished with the luxury of a Wigan

try four minutes from time not mattering in the slightest.

"It's the proudest I've been of a football team in my life," said Murray, who detected a new depth of self-belief in his side.

"It looked like the same Leeds teams to me," said Wigan's John Monie, who has perhaps not picked the ideal week to discuss an extension to his contract. "It was us who were down on our performance."

Leeds' reward for their epic victory is a home tie almost as difficult in the next round against St Helens.

"It's not the best draw, but that's what we thought when we came out of the hat with Wigan," said the Leeds captain, Iestyn Harris.

"St Helens are a great side, but we will be full of confidence after today."

The tie between Huddersfield and Salford is likely to be the BBC's other televised game on the weekend of 27 to 28 February, with the all Super League clash between Warrington and Halifax the other highlight of the draw.

Leeds: Harris, Reber, Blackmore, Godden, Connolly, Powell, Sheridan, Flannery, Newton, McDermott, Morley, Anthony Farrell, Glanville, Sabatubas, Smith, St Hilaire, Jackson, Hay, Machow, Wiggins, Radlinski, Robinson, Moore, Connolly, P Johnson, Florimo, Reber, O'Connor, Cassidy, Westwood, Gilmore, Haughton, Andy Farrell. Substitutes used: Cowie, Davies, Goldspink, A Johnson. Referee: R Smith (Castleford).

Challenge Cup results, page 11

Saints turn on the power

ST HELENS, Wembley winners in 1996 and 1997, took time to hit top form at the South Leeds Stadium before eventually defeating Hunslet by a battering 40-10 margin yesterday.

Saints led by just four points at the interval but Hunslet's resistance faded when the Super League visitors added five of their eight tries with Paul Sculthorpe using his finishing strength to get two of them.

Bradford Bulls chalked up a club record 92-0 win at Workington to stroll into the last 16, where they face a trip to Wakefield Trinity. It was also a record defeat for the First Division Cumbrians, who were already trailing 14-0 by the time second-row forward Barry Williams was sent off after 18 minutes for allegedly kicking out at Robbie Paul.

A hopeless task then became impossible and the Bulls underlined their Super League

FIFTH-ROUND DRAW

Leeds v St Helens
Widnes v Leigh
Hull KR v London
Castleford v York
Wakefield v Bradford
Huddersfield v Salford
Warrington v Halifax
Whitehaven v Oldham or Dewsbury
Ties to be played on 27-28 February.

class to score 17 tries, with their new Australian recruit Michael Withers and the former Salford centre Nathan McAvoy scoring four apiece.

Warrington turned on the style to secure a home tie with Halifax courtesy of a resounding 50-6 win over Featherstone Rovers at Widderspool.

Winger Mark Forster's hat-trick was upstaged by one from new signing Alan Hunte, who grabbed his in a late eight-minute burst.

Huddersfield Giants, bottom of Super League last season, enjoyed a 14-try romp against Swinton at McAlpine Stadium. Craig Weston grabbed a first-half hat-trick and he was aided by Paul Cook (2), Paul Loughlin, Bobbie Goulding, Danny Arnold and Dave Broughton, who all crossed in an embarrassingly one-sided first 40 minutes as the Giants, under new coach Mal Reilly, eventually cruised to a 78-4 win.

Rob Smyth kicked 10 conversions from 11 attempts as the London Broncos stroled to a 64-0 triumph over Doncaster at The Stoop to earn a trip to Hull KR. Karle Hammond led the way with a hat-trick on his debut.

ACTION REPLAY

Briggs in tears after United's record home defeat

TUESDAY
1 FEBRUARY
1961

Thirty-eight years ago Manchester United went into an FA Cup tie without their first and second-choice goalkeepers, Harry Gregg and Dave Gaskell. As Mike Langley reported in the Daily Express, United were made to rue their absence.

RONNIE BRIGGS, a little boy lost in a match labelled "He men only", humbled Manchester United out of the FA Cup last night. The floodlit fury of a screaming, roaring whistling 65,000 Old Trafford crowd overwhelmed 17-year-old Briggs. United's regular third-team goalkeeper only 10 days ago.

He had a nightmare in a dream match and in seven dreadful minutes presented Sheffield Wednesday with three goals. The score zoomed

BY MIKE LANGLEY
Manchester United
Sheffield Wednesday 2
7

from 1-1 to 4-1 against United as Briggs let a shot from Alan Finney spin out of his arms (20 minutes), grasped with wild inaccuracy at a header from Keith Ellis (33 minutes) and, after diving bravely at the toes of Ellis, failed to grab the ball (37 minutes).

And there were no smiles in the Irish eyes of Briggs

when the whistle mercifully ended the slaughter at 7-2, United's worst post-war home defeat.

The boy, in white pants six inches too short for his lanky legs, came off the field last and alone - clutching his cap, covering his tears with his left hand and loping with schoolboy awkwardness towards the players' tunnel.

In his last stride he paused to look up shyly at the packed stand, expecting, perhaps, assault or abuse. He received

neither. Manchester, bless its broken, sporting heart, gave him a cheer.

So now Sheffield go to Leyton Orient in the fifth round for London's only Cup tie. Orient manager Les Gore watched this replay and must have been impressed by an all-round side that can play rough or smooth.

They needed their toughness against some of the tackles of United captain Maurice Setters and inside-right Nobby Stiles. But these were jarring

notes in the subtle, inventive rhythm of United's attack. I am sure they would have won but for this difference - United were shooting against Ron Springett of England, Wednesday only against shattered Briggs of the 'A' team.

Goals: Farnham (9) 0-1; Pearson (4) 1-1; Finney (30) 1-2; Ellis (33) 1-3; Ellis (37) 1-4; Farnham (52) 1-5; Dawson 2-5 (65); Ellis (74) 2-6; Finney (84) 2-7. Manchester United: Briggs; Brennan, Cartwright, Setters, Foulkes, Nicholson; Gubbill, Stiles, Dawson, Pearson, Charlton. Sheffield Wednesday: Springett; Johnson, Megson; McNamee, O'Donnell, Kay, Wilkinson, Craig, Ellis, Farnham, Finney.



Briggs: Nightmare game

Postscript: Wednesday were eventually knocked out by Burnley in the quarter-finals but went on to claim the runners-up spot behind Tottenham in the First Division championship. Briggs played only 11 games for United (who finished a distant seventh in the league that season) and three years later moved to Swansea City. He also played for Bristol Rovers and won two caps for Northern Ireland.

MONDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

No taste, no style, no shame. No contest

It is one of the great mysteries of modern Britain. The appalling dress sense. The lame jokes. The relentless cheerfulness. Surely someone can explain why TV game-show host Richard Whiteley is a cult hero?

The first time I speak to Richard Whiteley – that “icon of post-modern irony” for all those who can’t bring themselves to simply say he’s fab – it is over the telephone, the night before we are due to meet. He’s rung and left a message, so I return the call.

“Hello!” he cries enthusiastically on answering the phone. “I’m just eating a Ryvita.”

“How... um... glamorous.”

“I shouldn’t really,” he presses on, guiltily. “We do get two good meals on *Countdown*. I’ll just have this one and then one more.”

“You go for it, Richard.”

“Do you watch *Countdown*?”

“Absolutely!”

“Arthur Smith was on this week. He’s very good. The audience love him. You’d think our audience wouldn’t, but they do. They also love Jo Brand, when she’s in tea-time mode. They like their bit of rough!”

“Don’t we all?”

“We’ve had Stephen Fry on. He’s a big fan of the show. He said to me: ‘Richard, I love *Countdown*. I go home at half-four, put my feet on a little pouf, and switch it on. Ha! Ha! Now, I’ve booked a restaurant in Leeds for 12.30pm. OK?’”

“Fine. I take it you’re a ‘your likley house now, and not your Wensleydale one?’”

“Yes. I mostly live in the likley one. Wensleydale is just a bolt-hole, really. Americans never know where Wensleydale is, so I tell them it’s betwixt Wensleydale and Thursleydale. Ha ha!” He laughs heartily. I imagine much moist spraying of Ryvita at the other end. I laugh heartily too.

Some jokes are so bad that they’re much funnier than those that really are funny, if you get what I mean. It’s the way they somehow manage to bypass any kind of true wit that does it. Plus, of course, I’m something of an expert in this field myself. Indeed, I even go on to tell him my dear-wish is for him to appear as a contestant on *Supermarket Sweep*, because then when Dale says: “Where are you from, Richard?”, he could say “Wensleydale, Dale”, and that would somehow be immensely satisfying all round. We both laugh heartily again. “Wensleydale, Dale!” he hoots between breaths.

“Between Wensleydale and Thursleydale!” I hoot between breaths.

I can tell, already, we are made for each other. I am besotted before we even meet. I tell my partner and son I might never return from Leeds. “Oh, good,” they chorus, supportively.

Anyway, off to Leeds on the train the following morning. I was planning on a nice little snooze, but no. Richard’s got my mobile number, and he’s a spectacular

fusspot. So, irritatingly, it’s: “Ring, ring... ‘Have you reached Peterborough yet?’ And ‘Ring, ring... are you coming into Leeds station?’ And: ‘Ring, ring... I’m at the restaurant and looking for a parking space.’ And then, just as I’m walking into the restaurant, the final, triumphant call in this gripping saga: ‘I’ve found a meter! I’ll be there in a tick! How will I recognise you?’ Tragically, I am rather unexceptional looking, I tell him. ‘That makes two of us,’ he bellows ecstatically. I’m still not sure.



THE
DEBORAH ROSS
INTERVIEW

what all this phoning business was actually about. I think it might be just, simply, that he likes to chat a lot.

Certainly, I recognise him from the off. In he trots, as appallingly dressed as ever. A black-and-grey herringbone jacket. A blue shirt. A tie that is not only bold stripes of turquoise, red, orange, green and navy, but is further decorated with a number of little brown spots that may be soup, but then again may be gravy. I don’t think his clothes are an affectation. “The tie is by Gene Meyer. I like his ties. I get them at Liberty.” He is wholly genuine, I’m fairly certain. Plus I just don’t think you could set out to be Richard Whiteley.

Looks-wise, he is not exactly a sex god but, that said, if he were he’d be somehow lost to us. He is portly, yes – “I’m all for widescreen TV. Ha! ha!” He would like to order steak and chips, but doesn’t think he should. “I was actually a devil with the Ryvita las, night. A devil! I had three more spread with Olivo after I spoke to you.” He has florid cheeks and glasses and is one of those men who can make his own hair look like it isn’t. He laughs happily when I tell him this. “I do have this terrible, wig-like hair-line, don’t I?” He seems to be immune to insults. Someone, he says, once said he had a face like “a cartoonist’s suicide note”. Ouch! I say. “Oh no,” he says. “It’s a spectacular description. I’ve put it in my publicity material.” What is his appeal? Is he a symbol of “post-modern irony”? Does he know what this means? “No, I don’t. When journalists phone me from Islington and say that’s what I am, I say I’m sitting here in Yorkshire and don’t know what the bloody hell you’re talking about.” How would you explain your appeal,

Richard? “I think it’s probably because I have no timing and can’t deliver lines.” Come now, I protest. Don’t do yourself down. Think of all the things you can do. Think of your tremendous linking ability. Is there a link you’re particularly proud of, Richard? “Well, on *Countdown*, we once had a contestant called John Collier, so I said: ‘John Collier, John Collier, the winner to watch!’ Now, that was very good.

“I also did an excellent ad-lib the other day. Angela Rippon was on. I said I went to bed at 7pm last night because I’m so used to going to bed after *News At Ten*. That was a very, very good one.” I think I might go back tonight, after all.

Anyway, on to *Countdown*. Richard’s been famously hosting this sort of Scrabble-meets-mental-arithmetic game show ever since it opened Channel 4’s broadcasting 16 years ago. “I’ve said ‘hello’ 2,700 times.” It was not, actually, an instant success. Although four-and-a-half million watched the first edition, only 800,000 stayed for the second. “And that,” boasts Richard happily, “is the biggest ratings drop in television history. Ever!”

Now, though, students love it. The pensioners of middle-England love it. I love it. These days, around five million people tune in daily, which makes it Channel 4’s most popular programme after *Brookside*. The success of *Countdown* is, on the surface, rather mystifying. It’s hardly a high-tech, zingy affair. It’s just Richard and Carol Vorderman (“a gorgeous girl who tells me off for being too fat”), a few felt-tip pens, a load of magnetised letters and numbers, an exceedingly nasty pearlescent grey set, a celebrity stuck next to a former Scrabble champion in “dictionary corner”, and a tremendous prize on offer – a set of dictionaries and a *Countdown* teapot.

Still, it’s this total lack of sophistication that actually gives *Countdown* its charm. Just as, perhaps, it’s Richard’s total lack of sophistication that gives him his charm. He likes chops and treacle pudding. Musically, he is into “songs from the shows”. His icon is David Frost. I would say he wasn’t overly ambitious. I would say what you see is what you get. I would say the other thing that makes *Countdown* so great is that it and its host are a sublime match. The package is just irresistible.

Certainly, it has made Richard into something of an icon. And a busy one. He’s currently spearheading an advertising campaign for a Japanese beer. He’s about to do a pilot interview show for the BBC. Plus, this week, he sets off on a 10-date national tour, billed as *Getting Intimate with Richard Whiteley*. This doesn’t bear thinking about in its literal sense, I know, but in the other sense it’s a “unique” live chat show, with celebrity guests whose names won’t be revealed to him until the previous night. “I like to be spontaneous. I like to do interviews off the top of my head.



Kipps Matthews

There’s no script on *Countdown*, you know. I make it all up as I go along.” No! “Yes! I do!”

We order our lunch. He goes for the steak in the end, as do I. The chips come on a silver plate, and are put next to me. “Put them in the MIDDLE. In the MIDDLE!” he cries. All right, all right, I say. Keep your hair-that-is-yours-but-looks-like-somebody-else’s on. The photographer joins us at this point. His name is Kipper. “Did you hear about the Birmingham man who went into a café and asked for a kipper tie?” asks Richard. The photographer looks at him, perplexed. “Kipper tie. Cuppa tea,” Richard explains. The photographer forces a brittle little laugh. Encouraged, Richard continues with: “Have you heard about these new corduroy pil-lows? They’re making headlines.” He explodes with mirth. I’m definitely going back tonight, I decide.

Richard was born and brought up in a village just outside Bradford. His father, Kenneth, ran the family business, the Thomas Whiteley textile mill, until he sold up in the Sixties. His father died five years ago but his mother, Margaret, is still around and she lives nearby. “She is very Alan Bennett. I told her I was taking a road-show round the country. She said: ‘Oh, do you have to go?’”

At 11, Richard was dispatched to Giggleswick School, a minor public job in the Yorkshire Dales. “My father went there in the Twenties, and was determined I should go.” On the whole, he liked it there. “The food was very good.” He had Russell Harty – yes, that Russell Harty – as his English teacher. “He was inspirational. I can hear him now, talking us through *Sir Gawain and The Green Knight*. We couldn’t wait for the next lesson, to find out what happened. He was brilliantly innov-

ative. He even had a telly in his room. I remember him coming into the study one evening while we were all doing prep, and saying: ‘I’ve just seen this wonderful thing on TV. It’s about a street in Manchester and there’s a woman with a hairnet in it.’ It was *Coronation Street*, of course.”

Harty famously remained a lifelong fan of *The Street*, and Richard adores it, too. Yes, he misses Hilda Ogden. “I liked it when she had to go into hospital for her Very Coarse veins.” But he has found some consolation in Natalie. “She has such sexy arms!”

OK, Richard and his sex life. Sorry, but it had to come sooner or later, and I have kept it to later. Actually, he doesn’t want to discuss it. He even made me promise beforehand that I would not discuss it. Occasionally, I do broach the subject. Would you say you weren’t the

Continued on page 8

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NETWORK
INCLUDING APPOINTMENTS

BIGWIG?

DON'T CHANGE.

WIDER SEATS

IN BUSINESS CLASS, EVEN IN THE UK.

British Midland
The Airline for Europe

Food of the future

Sir: In the debate over genetically modified foods, it is truly shocking that even after tobacco, salmonella, BSE and the rest, our politicians and power brokers have yet to learn crucial lessons that should be obvious to anyone with even a rudimentary understanding of social science.

The public is not now going to heed political assurances that only "science" will decide what we are to be fed. After so many scandals, the public no longer believes science to be the incorruptible pursuit of objective knowledge. Still less does it believe that this or any government gives equal weight to the lobbying of powerful industrialists versus the public interest.

Solutions lie in the things this government talked about before it came to power, but from which it has rapidly backtracked since: a truly independent and credible food agency with comprehensive powers - not the emasculated body rich in industry lobbyists now being floated; the implementation of a precautionary principle that weighs public concerns ahead of vested interests; and, most importantly of all, an immediate moratorium on sales of GM products.

They may as well go ahead with such measures while there is still a chance to salvage some kudos - the battle for public sentiment on GM is lost already.
Dr NICK FIDES
Department of Social Anthropology
University of Edinburgh

Sir: The fundamental question is whether there is any change in the biochemistry of a plant resulting from the insertion of a foreign gene which might lead to the formation of toxic substances. Plant poisons do not all produce immediate toxic effects, but may produce damage when eaten over a long period of time. Until the producers of genetically modified foods can without equivocation say that no toxic molecules can be formed, genetically modified foods must not be eaten.

That people would be wary of GM foods was amply demonstrated by the fact that in order to get GM soy into our foods against our wishes, the Americans deliberately mixed the GM soy with ordinary soy so that it was not possible to separate it. They knew full well that no one would accept the modified soy.
Professor AS MILTON
Department of Pharmacology
University of Cambridge

Sir: As a scientist working in biology and medical research, I am very aware of the limitations of molecular biology. The techniques are very powerful and it is relatively easy to show that the desired aim of a genetic modification experiment has been achieved - is a foreign protein is expressed in a cell.

However, it is almost impossible to predict deleterious effects of the procedure and therefore to show that a modified plant is safe to eat in large quantities over many years. The evaluation of safety will of necessity also take many years. Until we have completed extensive trials, GM foodstuffs should not be used in animal foods or mixed with other foods. Any GM product should be clearly labelled. Faced with the risk that BSE may be transmitted through blood donation, the US government is considering barring blood donation by US citizens who have visited the UK since the BSE outbreak. Faced with much greater potential risks, we should surely be banning the import or production of GM crops.
Dr MARK WOODWARD
Cardiff

Sir: GM food may yet prove to be a wonderful boon to mankind, and there may be no cause for concern. But in the light of DDT and asbestos and thalidomide and dioxins and atomic energy and all the other miracle cures for the world's woes that have gone severely sour in the past, not to mention the recent

experience of BSE, should we not be extraordinarily careful before unleashing this irreversible genie into our eco-system and food chain?
CHARLES HARVEY
From, Somerset

Sir: Has the UK got two different governments? That's the only explanation I can come up with for the ridiculously strict rules being enforced on beef on the bone, compared with the ridiculously lax attitude regarding genetically modified food.
JOE MCNAMEE
Brussels

Whose benefit?

Sir: Why is the Government targeting single mothers yet again ("Ministers to take harsh line on single mothers", 10 February)? Alistair Darling seems not to realise that bringing up children is hard work on behalf of society, the more so if it is done without a partner.

Of course single mothers should be helped with state-provided, quality child-care if they want to work. But why not encourage them with extra child allowance to do a good job if they want to stay at home with their children? Why also the drive to force people to work who do not have the capability to use the help on offer to find work? Their self-esteem is going to be further undermined by the pressures imposed. Some 1.3 million unemployed and 2.8 million on disability allowance; these are the casualties of an uncaring, materialistic, "something-for-nothing" society. Ask not how to force them to work for society; ask why society is not working for them.
RUTH L BARNETT
London NW6

Sir: What - doubtless unconscious - irony that the Government should recognise the enormous debt it owes to unpaid domestic carers almost on the same day that it declares its determination to get single mothers into work.
In the brave new world of the

working mother, we are producing a whole generation of children brought up, from the age of six months, in institutions. What duty of care (how absurdly old fashioned that phrase already sounds) will these children owe their parents when they become ill, disabled or simply too old to cope?

No child can ever learn to sacrifice its convenience for others if it has never seen its parents do so. Why should any child, put into a nursery from infancy so that its mother can go out to work, feel any compunction about putting its elderly parents into care when they cease to manage by themselves?
As we sow, so shall we reap.
Mrs DORIAN POTTS
Oxford

Cleaning up the Net

Sir: Alan Docherty (letter, 10 February) suggests that the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) "simply asks for Internet service providers (ISPs) to remove material" without any accountability to the public. In fact

Sir: It was interesting to note that in promoting the Welfare Reform Bill Alistair Darling pledged to try to end the "something-for-nothing" culture ("We make no apologies for our tough benefits regime", 10 February). To be consistent, that would mean ending the National Lottery. I suspect this will not happen as the Government will again put popularity before the pursuit of principle.
JOHN WAINWRIGHT
Potters Bar, Hertfordshire

Sir: Can Yasmin Alibhai-Brown (Comment, 11 February) explain why she keeps using the term "black and Asian"? If "Black" no longer means "people of African and Asian origins who experienced racism because of skin colour", why are those of us who are not

there are a range of checks and balances which ensure that the IWF only acts on material which would be likely to be found illegal in a UK court.

The material in question is almost exclusively pictures of children being sexually abused or raped on screen. Unlike the vagaries of the Obscene Publications Act, there is not much room for doubt that possession and publication of such pictures is an offence under UK child protection legislation.

The UK ISPs, which have consistently upheld rights to free speech on the Net, will only remove material that they agree is potentially illegal. (Like many other organisations, including newspapers, they do have to make some judgement of material that has not been to court.)

The police, too, would quickly tell us if the reports that we pass to them refer to material that would not be actionable in the UK. Indeed, there are no doubt cases which have been successfully prosecuted which originated with

information forwarded by the IWF.

Finally, it is ironic that Mr Docherty's accusation of lack of accountability appeared the day after the DTI and Home Office published the results of an extensive review of the performance of the IWF. This thorough investigation into our efficiency and effectiveness was conducted by independent management (KPMG) and legal consultants (Denton Hall). Readers can see it at www.dti.gov.uk/iwfreview - another example of the Internet encouraging open government.
DAVID KEIR
Chief Executive
Internet Watch Foundation
Oakington, Cambridgeshire

Cruel to be kind

Sir: "More than 20 years of culling (badgers) have proved that this method does not work," says Pauline Kidner (Right of Reply, 10 February), but that statement is a serious over-simplification. Culling to the point of

Sir: The Police Complaints Authority notes with irony Mr Colin Cridland's letter (4 February) questioning whether public complaints against the police lead to any disciplinary action. Mr Cridland may be reassured by our press announcement the day before that a Metropolitan Police officer will face a charge of racially discriminatory behaviour following an incident in south London. If, following complaint, the investigation produces evidence to support disciplinary charges, then it will be the policy of this Authority to ensure that appropriate charges will be preferred.
MOLLY MEACHER
Deputy Chairman
Police Complaints Authority
London SW1

Sir: It's difficult to understand the fuss over alleged attempts by the Sinn Féin Hunt to increase the fox population by building artificial earths (report, 11 February). All hunters desire a plentiful quarry species whether they be shooters, anglers or fox-hunters. Shooters go to extraordinary lengths to breed as many game birds as possible.

The problem for fox-hunters is that the farming communities they rely on regard their quarry as a pest. Therefore hunts need to strike a balance between quarry conservation and pest control. Could it be that the antipathy of the farming community is more to do with the hunt's enthusiasm for breeding foxes rather than reducing their number?
GEOFF STOVOLD
Tunbridge Wells, Kent

extermination by repeated gassing, as at Steeple Leaze and Thornbury, worked insofar as there has been no further TB in cattle or recolonising badgers there. Furthermore, under the "clean ring" strategy of 1982-5, the number of TB breakdowns in cattle fell to an all-time low of 53 in 1985.

After that year, the less intensive "interim" strategy was used, a practice in which badgers were trapped only on the land grazed by the infected cattle. The proportion of infected badgers thus caught probably never approached 100 per cent and from MAFF data one can estimate that it was usually less than 50 per cent.

Not a very effective strategy therefore, but it may have had some effect since the biggest recent increases in tuberculous infection have been in areas where no badgers had ever been culled. These areas - the Exe Valley, Hereford and Worcester, central Wiltshire, Monmouthshire and Shropshire - include those where the national badger surveys have shown the biggest increases in badger populations. The farmers' call for some control over badger numbers seems justified.
HUMPHREY KAY
Peasey, Wiltshire

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GEOFF STOVOLD
Tunbridge Wells, Kent

Sir: Your correspondents (letters, 11 February) are disingenuous when they compare religion to concert-going and mountaineering. What distinguishes religious people is not the funny things they do but the beliefs they hold, and the fact that those beliefs cannot be verified by logic or evidence of the senses.

Religious persecution is a fact of life but I know of no instance where a tribe has attempted genocide on another because it did not like its taste in music. Nor do crazed men with briefcases knock on my door saying I can achieve salvation only by becoming a Wagnerian.
TIMOTHY J ROPER
Leaves, East Sussex

Death in Timor

Sir: If the Indonesian government overturns its president's undertaking that East Timor's people will be allowed to choose their own future ("Timor is offered 'freedom' at last", 28 January), will the British Foreign Office notice? I fear not.

My son - TV reporter Michael Rennie - and his Bristol-born cameraman, Brian Peters, were murdered in East Timor on 16 October 1975 by Indonesian troops. José Ramos Horta (East Timor's Nobel Peace Prize co-laureate, 1996) informed the Foreign Office of this when, in February 1976, he travelled to London to urge Her Majesty's Government to investigate the newsmen's murders.

The Foreign Office failed to act on that information, or even to pass it to the families. Not until 8 October last year did any Foreign Office Minister ask the Indonesian government to "look into" my son's death. President Habibie undertook to do so.

Even though that undertaking was overruled by President Habibie's cabinet before last October was out, the Foreign Office says Mr Habibie's undertaking still stands. That is a disgrace. Will matters change when, this week, the Australian government releases its new report on the murder of my son and the four newsmen murdered with him? I hope so.

What is at stake isn't just my peace of mind. What is at stake is the future of a small country where, in the words of the General Council of American Rabbis, "no people on earth has seen a greater portion of its population perish under tyranny since the nightmare of the European Holocaust".
Mrs WILHELMINA RENNIE
Ramsey, Isle of Man

Sir: Now that President Habibie doesn't wish Indonesia to be "burdened" with East Timor's oil wealth after 1 January 2000, you need to be even more wary of Australian propaganda. It is untrue, for example, that East Timor was invaded "when the sudden departure of the Portuguese left a power vacuum" ("Timor hopes rise as rebel leader is freed", 11 February).

East Timor's Portuguese governor did not flee until 27 August 1975. By then, Indonesian troops had been in East Timor for six months. Their job was to stir up the "civil war" that began on 11 August 1975 so that the full-scale invasion - scheduled for 16 October 1975 - could be presented as a move to "restore peace".

All this was known to the Australian government, which was given extensive briefings by the Indonesians. So when, after the real civil war collapsed, Indonesian troops murdered two TV news crews at the border village of Balibo on 16 October 1975, Indonesia's then president halted the invasion. He feared public protests from the newsmen's governments. When none came, East Timor's fate was sealed.

The Australian government's "preliminary evaluation" of the deaths of the newsmen - including the Britons Malcolm Rennie and Brian Peters - is due out this week.
HUGH DOWSON
Western Region Development Officer
United Nations Association
Bath

No faith in music

Sir: Your correspondents (letters, 11 February) are disingenuous when they compare religion to concert-going and mountaineering. What distinguishes religious people is not the funny things they do but the beliefs they hold, and the fact that those beliefs cannot be verified by logic or evidence of the senses.

Religious persecution is a fact of life but I know of no instance where a tribe has attempted genocide on another because it did not like its taste in music. Nor do crazed men with briefcases knock on my door saying I can achieve salvation only by becoming a Wagnerian.
TIMOTHY J ROPER
Leaves, East Sussex

Who is this 'doctor' who claims to be a 'minister'?

IT LOOKS AS IF TV and radio have been hoaxed again. It now seems that a man known as "Doctor" Jack Cunningham, who has repeatedly gone on radio and TV over the weekend to talk about the threat of genetic engineering, may not be a bona fide top politician at all.

"We should have had our suspicions early on, I suppose," says one duped producer. "He came on air and refused to commit himself to anything. When faced with expert opinion to the effect that genetic modification could harm the immune system, he said that nothing was proved yet. When charged with being in the pocket of big business, he denied it. When asked to put a moratorium on genetically altered foodstuffs, he said he did not feel the government could take this step. When..."

Yes, yes, we get the idea. So he displayed no immediate knowledge of the subject and refused to take any responsibility for it? "Yes. He behaved like any normal politician in power, in fact. That is why our suspicions were not aroused."

So what did arouse your suspicions? "Well, as much as anything it was his ubiquity. He turned up on almost every programme you care to name over the weekend, passionately saying the same nothings and denying the same nothings. Sometimes he even telephoned the programme after he had left the studio to make a further point. Well, politicians do enjoy going on the air as much as anyone, but even they have a home life, especially at the weekends, and this "Dr" Jack Cun-

ningham seemed to spend all his time on the air. So we started to smell a rat."

And then they started to investigate "Dr" Jack Cunningham, and the whole truth began to unravel. For a start, his name wasn't Jack, it was John. For another start, he didn't seem to be what you might call a real doctor.

"Oh, you get this from time to time in top politics," says the producer, who would prefer to remain anonymous and employed. "Every party seems to throw up at least one politician who calls himself a doctor, for no very good reason. They're not medical doctors. They may have some DPhil tucked away in the kitchen cupboard, which would give them a sort of nominal right to be called 'doctor' - chemistry in Cunningham's case, I be-

lieve - but what normal person would insist on it, unless they were very insecure or perhaps desper-



MILES KINGTON
"Cunningham was well known to the Labour Party, but they had no clear idea of what he did."

ate to be taken seriously? We always had trouble with the Tories and their Brian Mawhinney insisting on being called Dr Mawhinney, and then there's Ian Paisley, but let's not go down that particular garden path...

"Anyway, when we investigated further it transpired that although Cunningham was well known to the Labour Party, they had no very clear idea of what he did there. He seemed to attend Cabinet meetings, but had no particular ministry post, except Minister for the Cabinet Office, which doesn't mean anything. When we asked contacts what this could possibly signify, some people said it meant he was the Enforcer: some the Terminator: some the Fixer, all of which suggested that nobody actually knew what he did. Or perhaps of course

that he doesn't do anything. Except bluster his way on to programmes!" Has "Dr" Jack Cunningham therefore engineered his way into the Cabinet in the same way as he seems to have instigated his way into TV and radio programmes? Is he some kind of bogus minister?

"Look," says the duped producer, who really, really, really doesn't want to be named, as it might lead to all sorts of awkward complications at work, "when you've been in this job as long as I have, and you want to stay there a little longer, you don't use expressions like 'bogus' and 'scam' and 'another time-wasting performance by that arch-wit-ter Doc Jack Cunningham'. What you do is search out the researchers who were responsible for getting him on the programme and give them a hard time.

"Mark you, there is one other ironic thing about 'Dr' Jack Cunningham. When we were checking him out, we looked him up in Who's Who and we noticed that he gives as his one of his hobbies, 'listening to other people's opinions'. It may be so but it's not a hobby he indulges in on air very much."

Hmm... But doesn't the fact that "Dr" Jack Cunningham appears in the august pages of Who's Who suggest that he's a genuine politician?

"Not necessarily. After all, Jeffrey Archer is in there as well." Well, there you have it. If you think "Dr" Jack Cunningham is an impostor, ring the YES line. If not, ring the NO line. All calls are at premium rate, so do ask your parents first - or the people masquerading as your parents.

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The merits of letting us know what we are eating

THERE ARE two quite separate dangers from genetic modification of food, which so far have been widely confused. One is the question of whether genetically-modified food is safe to eat. The other is whether it is damaging to the environment to grow it.

There are no modified crops grown commercially in this country at present, although there are a number of research trials. English Nature, the statutory body set up to advise the Government on the environment, argues that it is too early to say from these trials what the effects will be of cross-pollinating unmodified crops, or what impact modified crops will have on existing animals and plants.

Meanwhile, another statutory body advising the Government, the Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment, last week recommended that modified oilseed rape should be let loose on the British countryside – as if the ordinary kind were not “unnatural” enough. The modified variety has had its genes altered in order to make it “herbicide tolerant” – which means it can be sprayed with more and stronger weedkiller. Regardless of any of the emotive fears about meddling with the DNA of natural organisms, this would be a step in entirely the wrong direction. The whole weight of science and logic is moving against intensive agriculture and back towards balanced, sustainable, low-risk methods of production. And it is backed by rising public demand for organic produce.

The Government should prefer the advice of English Nature to that of the committee which, as we report today, is about to be reconstituted in a way which will reduce its identification with the interests of agri-business.

More than this, however, neither the Government nor the food industry can afford to ignore the irrational element of public fears. There is a deep-seated taboo about “playing God”. The widespread horror of cloning animals and people, for example, is out of all proportion to the risks involved. But when it comes to genetically-modified food, the disproportion is not so great. Modified food may well be “safe” to eat, but it is foolish of Jack Cunningham to use the word because no one can be sure. The proteins in modified foods all occur naturally, and there is no known means by which the modified DNA in soya, tomatoes or maize can affect human genes. But this is a field of science in which, as the BSE crisis revealed, the speed of discovery is matched only by the speed with which the widening vistas of human ignorance are opened up. Mad cow disease turned out to be transmissible by means previously thought impossible, and still not fully understood.

Tony Blair shows all the signs of making the same mistake as the previous government. His instinctive reaction when ambushed on the food issue was to say: “We must proceed on the best scientific evidence.” But science is



not a religion; it is a messy contest between rival theories and ambiguous proofs. Mr Cunningham's insistence that all food has passed “rigorous testing procedures” is beside the point: those procedures cannot test for the long-term effects of doing things to genes which have never been done before.

This seeming complacency has fed the hysteria over “mutant foods” and encouraged calls for an outright ban. As ever, information rather than proscription is the public's best protection. The Government is already tightening up the labelling of food and animal feed which may contain modified material. This will be difficult, because modified and non-modified soya from the United States cannot be separated; it will mean disentangling the ingredients of all sorts of unexpected foods; and restaurant menus could require academic-style footnotes. But at least consumers can then make up their own minds. If the Government had acted earlier, it would not be facing such damaging accusations of post-mad-cow hypocrisy now.

The quaint custom of being sporting

CAN FOOTBALL – or indeed any sport – be the same after Arsène Wenger's historic offer to replay a football match because he did not think his team's winning goal was “fair”? Its significance is not that England will now have to offer to replay the 1966 World Cup final because the ball did not cross the line – or did it? – for the third and decisive goal. Nor is it, ultimately, that it was a grand sporting gesture in a game supposedly driven by ruthless professionalism and money. The cynics might argue that, as in any big-money business, public relations is the line just above the bottom line. Mr Wenger's Arsenal have taken a media kicking for “professional” foul play, while the FA, which agreed to the re-match, urgently needs to restore its credibility after the Hoddle affair. Still, as Glenn Moore argues in

today's new Sports supplement, it was the right decision. The real significance of the Arsenal-Sheffield United game, however, is it drew attention to the quaint custom of deliberately passing the ball to the opposition after the ball is kicked out of play to allow an injured player to be treated. This is what might seem strange to outsiders in a game allegedly so driven by the need to win at all costs. The same players who pull shirts, trip opponents on the referee's blind side and dive with extravagant theatricality are suddenly transformed into models of tea-party politeness, cheerfully surrendering an advantage to which they are entitled under the rules of the game.

After the publicity generated by Saturday's extraordinary mix-up, footballers will have to get their etiquette right. But why not extend the principle to other games? A bowler could lob a soft one to a batsman who had hurt a finger. A tennis player could play left-handed while an opponent recovers from a sprained ankle. Welcome to the new hero of the stands: the good sport.

Whatever happened to putting the consumer first, Mr Blair?

FOR A large part of the post-war period, much of the debate within the Labour Party was between “producer” and “consumer” interests – with the producer interests usually winning. Many of the arguments over the big issues were really ones between unions: energy policy, to take one example, was a power struggle between the slowly dwindling miners' union and the unions represented in electricity supply, and by extension, the nuclear industry.

In a sense it didn't matter, after all the Conservative Party was a producer party too, only it represented, instead of workers, the companies which employed them. What made the modernisation of Labour liberating was that it eroded producer (union) influence on the party; it made it easier to draw up programmes which were not so driven by the balance of vested interests which funded and drove the party.

Of course this is an over-simplification so wilful that it borders on caricature. But it will do as a background to the peculiarities of the present row over genetic modification. Principal among these strangenesses is the spectacle of John Redwood, a right wing Tory Trade and Industry spokesman, getting together with Friends of the Earth to put ministers on the defensive over the perceived dangers of genetic engineering to food production.

The Conservative Party projects itself, exploiting arguably the biggest chance of advantage it has enjoyed since the general election, as the champion of the consumers. Labour

begins to look once again like the party of the producers, though not this time of the trade unions, but the big multinationals.

Again this is no doubt over-simple. The Conservative Party has not suddenly freed itself from its susceptibility from the interests of big business, as its performance on issues of food safety alone demonstrated when it was in government. Nor can a Labour government, more finely tuned to the popular will than any of its predecessors, be impervious to the dangers posed to it by the anxieties over GM Food which are beginning to register sharply in MP's post bags.

It's possible, of course, to see the whole row as one of those media frenzies which any self-respecting prime minister ought to show his mettle by standing up to. When you see the endlessly repeated phrase “Frankenstein foods” and “health time bomb” it is time to inject some scepticism into the debate. Given the divisions between scientists on the issue, it would be a brave layman who presumed to come down dogmatically on one side or the other. Just because Monsanto faces the highly embarrassing prospect of pleading guilty to charges of damaging the environment this week, it does not mean that it may not, in the long run, be proved right, and that the new techniques will go a long way to ending world famine.

Nor is there the remotest cause for believing that Lord Sainsbury, the DTI minister who deals with the subject, is even slightly motivated by profit in his present job. Scarcely a man who



DONALD MACINTYRE

Genetic modification is planet-changing technology, and there is good reason to pause and examine it

needs to worry about where his next cup of coffee is coming from. Lord Sainsbury is not, it can confidently be said, in government to increase the profits of the companies with which he was associated before he became a minister, including two, Innotech and Diatex, specifically engaged in developing GM products.

And yes, the fact that talented and knowledgeable businessmen like Sainsbury or Lord Simon are attracted to the Labour Party is a reasonable cause for quiet celebration.

But these won't quite do as reasons for toughing out the present argument. For the politics are beginning to look distinctly difficult.

Forget about the fact that the Green Party may have been handed the one issue which could be the motor of a modest electoral recovery in the

coming European elections. More significant is the fact that the Government is itself showing distinct signs of disunity on the issue.

Behind the scenes, Michael Meacher, the environment minister; for one, is conducting an effective, if fairly lonely, campaign on the Cabinet sub-committee on genetic modification, for an at least partial moratorium of the development of GM technology until there has been time for fuller research and reflection. Meacher is not, even within Whitehall, apocalyptic on the topic; he is no more convinced that GM food is catastrophic on a global scale, than that it is the answer to world famine.

But he is known to be sceptical about the latter claim, not least on the grounds that the so-called “terminator gene” in modified seeds are designed to require third world farmers continually to purchase and re-purchase costly seeds from the biotechnology companies.

Meacher is sufficiently concerned about the independence of one of the key regulatory bodies, the Advisory Committee on Releases into the Environment, to be planning to use the Nolan/Neill guidelines on increasing the turnover in official bodies of experts to plan the replacement this year of most of its members. Instead, the membership will be less tied to the biotech industry; and he is proposing, rather sensibly, that a high-powered Government enquiry into genetic modification be set up, on the model established when Margaret Thatcher set up Mary Warnock's human embryology committee in 1982. Finally,

while he would never presume to criticise a colleague, it is unlikely that he would declare, as Jack Cunningham has done, that GM Food is “safe”.

Michael Meacher has been written off many times before; but he is one of the Labour Party's great survivors. And I suspect the reason that he has made little secret of his concern – he gave forthright evidence to the House of Lords Select Committee enquiry on the subject last autumn – is that he is going with grain of opinion within much of the Parliamentary Labour Party – and, if William Hague has read it right, the mood of much of Middle England as well.

A good deal of attention has been devoted to what looks like a cosy relationship between the biotech giants and the Government: some generous grants here, a Labour Party donation there, a total of 81 visits by such companies to government departments. But this is not a corrupt government. Could it be that the problem is not guilt but innocence – innocence, that is, about the claims made by powerful multinationals that anyone who stands in their way is simply standing in the way of progress?

Tony Blair's distaste for the nanny state is commendable. On GM ingredients in food, much can be done by strict enforcement of a forthcoming EU directive on labelling. But this is also planet-changing technology, and there is nothing discreditable about pausing for its full impact is examined. There are many occasions on which it is heroic to refuse to play the populist card. This does not look like one of them.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“I would be laughed out of the room”
Gerry Adams,
President of Sinn Féin, on asking the IRA
to hand in their weapons

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“Food is an important part of a balanced diet.”
Fran Lebowitz,
American humourist

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MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

The Sunday papers comment on allegations of faking on daytime television shows

I BELIEVE that I worked for most of my life in the golden age of television. Factual programmes were truthful, entertainment programmes were cheerful, and seeing was believing. But that was a while ago. Now, it seems, we live in the age of the lie.

We have no way of knowing whether what the television companies present us with is true or false, accurate or totally fraudulent. The bond of trust has been broken.

In Britain, we used to have not just the best television in the world, but the most trustworthy. We can still retrieve it. But we must learn again the most important lesson of all – that programmes always matter more than profits.
(Martin Bell)
Sunday Mirror

WE HAVE abolished bear baiting, public executions, cock-fighting and disembowelling. But we've replaced them with

something which, in its own way, is equally obscene. Trash TV. Trash TV relies on a bottomless contempt for the audience. Give 'em anything, they're so thick they'll never notice.

Truth and lies are melded into one in a sacrifice on the altar of the great God, ratings. However Vanessa, Trisha and their minions try to claim a fake respectability, we are

back in the Middle Ages sniggering and throwing tomatoes at village idiots in the stocks.
(Richard Stott)
News of the World

THERE ARE now two cultures in this country: the culture of the great majority, increasingly formed and driven by popular television, and the culture of the increasingly marginal educated minority, which is pretty much indifferent to popular (particularly daytime) televi-

sion. The ghastly Oprah Winfrey, queen of the American confessional, was sneered at when she said last week that the increasingly violent format of confessional television shows will lead to real deaths. She may be exaggerating, but she has a real point. “Can public taste keep on sinking?” she asked. “Yes, it can – I have to get out.” So should Vanessa.
(Minette Martin)
Sunday Telegraph

PANDORA

AMIDST ALL the confusion over "nutritious food", Pandora has embroiled herself in a good old-fashioned food fight. A group of three friends recently dined in the Harvey Nichols-owned Oxo Tower Restaurant. Two of them became ill after eating lobster, one immediately, the other an hour and a half later. The group were asked to pay the bill despite the obvious distress caused. Subsequent complaints recouped the cost of the meal, but positive action appeared only after Pandora contacted the office of Dominic Ford, the Food & Beverage Director at Harvey Nichols, although he states that compensation was sent out before these enquiries. Coincidentally, Food Alert, the private food and hygiene agency that Harvey Nichols brought in to investigate the incident, wrote to one of the group immediately after contact with Pandora to "apologise for inaccuracies" contained in a report it had previously sent out. Pandora's contact with Food Alert had resulted in Gillian Edward, their operations and training manager, putting the phone down. Pandora has learned that Food Alert was unable thoroughly to investigate the incident because the food was thrown away by the restaurant. However, its findings did not suggest food poisoning.

THE ROLE of Food Alert puzzles Pandora. Can it be impartial to the client that hires it? Gillian Edward told Pandora that the company was "working towards impartiality", but Food Alert's managing director, Peter Christopher, wanted to assure Pandora that it was impartial and that its findings "had to stand up in court". However, there is no regulatory body for private food hygiene firms and Christopher based his professional code on previous experience as an Environmental Health Officer (EHO). Unlike an actual EHO, Food Alert's findings cannot be referred to a complaint procedure if the person complaining remains dissatisfied. Pandora put it to Food Alert's MD that anyone with a hygiene complaint against a restaurant which used its own private firm could bring in an EHO to investigate a complaint. "The answer to that is yes," confirmed

Christopher, swallowing his own *raison d'être*.

AFTER THE death of King Hussein, the community of Harrow was in mourning. Not only did Hussein attend Harrow School, but Hussein's hobby of being a "radio ham" kept him in touch with an even wider community in the Middlessex area. One radio enthusiast, Edwin Benou, tells of Hussein's accessible approach over the airwaves: "We talked about all sorts of things - political things and personal things," he told the Harrow Observer, adding, "Once he said to me, 'Sorry, I've got to break off. Henry Kissinger's on his way'."

COMEDIAN RORY Bremner (pictured) seems to have no doubt who will be taking over from Paddy Ashdown when he finally steps down as Liberal Democrat leader in the summer. At last week's *House Magazine* Channel 4 political awards, Mr Bremner was heard to say to Charles Kennedy: "You will be giving me some tapes of your voice, won't you?"

IS FULHAM manager Kevin Keegan going to bow out to Glen Hoddle? Certainly, Mohamed al-Fayed, the Fulham chairman, seems to be engaging in some wishful thinking in his latest *Punch* column: "Glen Hoddle was a fool and he knows it. It is time to move on. We should forgive Mr Hoddle. It would be a shame if he disappeared from soccer," writes Mo, in a spirit of anticipation.

SOME PEOPLE in the Labour Party will be glad to know that Tony Blair does look back to the past now and again. In yet another exclusive in last week's *Daily Mail*, Blair's message on welfare reform was: "It really is the end of the something-for-nothing days." Way back in 1988, the then Labour leader, Neil Kinnock, dumped nuclear defence unilateralism by saying: "There is now no need for a something-for-nothing unilateralism." It seems that "something-for-nothing" will at least exist as useful soundbite, even if some of the circumstances it describes are gone.

Pandora can be contacted at: pandora@independent.co.uk



Don't mention the obsession...



THOMAS KIELINGER

All attempts by Germans to assess the British national character are counter-productive

HERE WE go again. Always mention the war, and damn the consequences. The British tabloids routinely do it. Most recently, *The Sun* depicted Germany's finance minister, Oskar Lafontaine, as the ghost of panzers past.

And, just as predictable, comes the German reaction to all of this. Frustration coloured the German culture minister Michael Naumann's outburst in an interview yesterday, when he depicted Britain as the only country which had made "the Second World War a sort of spiritual core of its national self, understanding and pride". So now you know.

But the man who spoke thus is also someone who, shortly after he was born in 1941, lost his father to Hitler's criminal war efforts. So Naumann really struggles on two fronts - getting to grips with his own country's past and reacting viscerally to showman clichés buried at Germany, which belie the great strides forward the country has made over the last 50 years.

However, let me say a few more things about my friend and contemporary Michael, so that the

debate he has triggered anew can be put into perspective. Naumann is no whinging German, craving for a few petty squabbles. He is a polyglot player in the global culture stakes, who has worked as a journalist, as a director of various German and US publishing companies, and who has all the qualifying degrees for a professorial position in any German university.

A formidable and tireless mind, Naumann has made it his hallmark to jolt many time-hallowed beliefs from their bedrock immutability. Germans have received their dose of the Naumann style with a vengeance. He hasn't even shrunk from attacking what he thinks is a monumentally flawed approach to the planned Holocaust memorial in Berlin, which he would like to see turned more into a thinking man's study centre than just a politically correct monument.

For Chancellor Schröder to recreate a German ministry of culture was a daring move, in a country where none had existed since 1945. Schröder wants Germany to regain a more prominent voice in the one field which seems pivotal to a country's profile and prestige nowadays - culture. In its widest interpretation, this includes the way we live as much as the films we make, the art exhibitions or sport tournaments we host, as well as the prejudices we manage to dismantle or, conversely, to perpetuate. With Naumann as the man to spin it for Germany, the Chancellor could not have come up with a better choice.

I may thus be forgiven for disagreeing with Michael on what he has to say about the "spiritual core" of Britain's national self. Arguably, the tainted vision of errant anti-Germanness may make anyone's blood tingle with wrath, as Tony Blair can testify. It has not made the task of moving Britain closer to the European Union, in a confident, self-assured fashion, any easier.

But if certain sections of British public opinion make life miserable for politicians and their designs, so all attempts by Germans to assess the British national character at this point in time, can only be equally counter-productive. Naumann inadvertently helps elevate stereotype and cliché to the height from which it should just be torn down.

Furthermore, Naumann's reference to the Second World War provides incomplete evidence for judging mentalities and character traits. Had there been television footage and such of Napoleon or the Spanish Armada, Naumann could with equal measure decry Britain's obsession with those older foes.

In fact, a German umpire is the least suitable judge to bespeak him-

self of an island nation which has travelled a uniquely different course from that of any other continental European state. If Britain is famously awkward towards Germany, it is because the Second World War happens to be the latest in a sequence of events which over the centuries have shaped what Naumann critiques as the British "mythology".

For this to be reoriented towards a ever-closer union with Europe requires an almost superhuman effort at sensitivity and diplomacy, by all concerned. I can only wish those in charge the very best of British luck. Adverse popular press comments do not a country's vocation make. Nor are they of sufficient gravitas to merit an outburst by a German culture minister.

To Michael Naumann I say - it's the geography, stupid, and there is really nothing you can do about it except, as a German, having rebuilt a nation from the slings and arrows of outrageous failures, to shut up and smile and hope for the best.

The author is the London correspondent for the German national daily, *'Die Welt'*

Why I believe 'The Exorcist' can do no harm in the home



ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH

The film was found so frightening when it was first shown that some young women fainted

THE SUBSTANTIAL differences between going out to the cinema and watching films on video at home - at least in the minds of the mysterious authorities who govern our lives - are vividly illustrated by the history of *The Exorcist*.

This excellent, albeit notorious, film has been regularly available in cinemas since its controversial debut in 1974, when it was given the old "X" rating. But only last week - 25 years later - did the British Board of Film Classification (of which I became president in January 1998, and thus an "authority") classify it for the video market.

Cinemas are well regulated in terms of observing the age categories. While there can be some slippage in films classified at "12" or even at "15" because children do not always look their age, it can be assumed that the "18" category is reliably policed. In other words, the "18" rating in the cinema means "adults only". Indeed I would say "informed adults only" for people must always have some idea of what kind of movie they have come out to see. In fact, the board has not refused an "18" classification for a film in the cinema for eight years, but occasionally it has insisted on brief cuts.

When videos enter the home, however, one cannot assume that the age classification will be observed. Even where parents conscientiously regulate their children's viewing, they cannot control what their young ones may see at their friends'. Like television, where viewers often have no idea what to expect as they move from one channel to another, videos can be carelessly picked up and played. Both television and videos can have the quality of being unhidden.

On the other hand, the board does not assume that every 12-year-old, for instance, will wish to watch every "18" video that his or her par-

ents may rent. That depends much more upon the subject matter, the style and the actors.

In the case of *The Exorcist*, which we classified at "18", the board made two assumptions: that so famous is the title, most kids would want to see it; and that many parents are aware of the film's reputation and that they would take such precautions as they might think to be appropriate.

There is also an enormous difference between the economics of the two markets, and this has an impact on the way they are regulated. Films made for the cinema, rather than directly for the video market, are expensive to produce and to promote, and the board receives about 400 a year for classification. The bulk of them have wide appeal.

But the board is sent about 4,000 videos each year. Only about a tenth of these have been in the cinema; the rest are cheaply produced, solely for video rental and often serve niche markets. If the cinema is

still a bit like the theatre, the video market resembles book publishing with a similar ability to satisfy small interest groups.

The majority of these are unexceptional. But among the interest groups, one is pretty big - the buyers of so-called "adult" or pornographic movies, in turn dividing into heterosexual or gay, and subdividing again into specific sexual activities. Alongside explicit sex, there is also a niche market which relishes violence on screen, and, of course, often sex and violence are combined.

These two aspects of the video market - the fact that videos come into the home and that some will be more sexually explicit or more violent than is generally so in the cinema - explain why the legislation governing the classification of videos is much stricter and more precise.

As far as the cinema goes, the board carries out its work on behalf of local authorities, which are able to insist that local cinemas observe the board's classification decisions. Our legal duties are limited to making sure that works are not classified that would breach the Obscene Publication Acts, or which would infringe the Protection of Children Act (that makes it a crime to produce or publish indecent photographs of a child), or which would break the pre-war law which forbids any scene where animals were treated cruelly in the making of it.

Recently too, the European Convention on Human Rights has been made part of English law and with it, Article 10, which guarantees the right to freedom of expression.

While all this legislation applies equally to videos, there is an extra consideration - the Video Recordings Act. This has been amended twice since it was first placed on the Statute Book in 1984. Some members of both Houses of Parliament con-



Before the Video Recordings Act was passed in 1984, *'The Exorcist'* had already been available on tape

time to wonder whether it is sufficiently effective.

At its centre is the notion of "harm" - harm to those likely to view the video and harm to society through the behaviour of those viewers afterwards. And it singles out five activities as being potentially harmful - criminal behaviour; the use of illegal drugs; violent behaviour or incidents; horrific behaviour or incidents; and human sexual activity.

The Exorcist contains scenes of violence and sex, but it is not these which prevented video classification for so long. The film, with its treatment of demonic possession, was found so frightening when it was first shown that some young women fainted. That has been the problem.

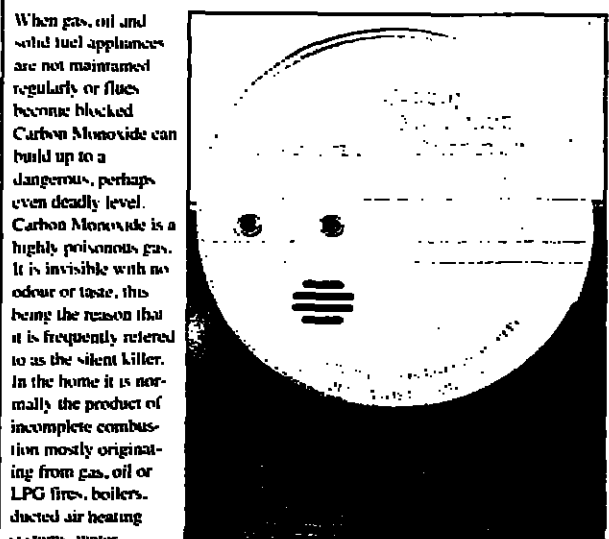
On the other hand, to be terrified by a piece of fiction, whether a book, a play, a television production or a film is not necessarily to be harmed. After all, many people in their leisure activities seek briefly to feel alarmed; they pay good money for frightening experiences whether at the fun fair or on the mountains in winter, or at the cinema.

The question which has taken so long to answer is whether *The Exorcist*'s undoubted power to induce fear can be harmful in the sense of permanent psychological damage.

You can say that this is an unanswerable problem, and I confess that many of the issues which the board faces feel like that, but, nonetheless, have to be resolved. In this example, unusually, we had something to go on. It is this. In 25 years, no cases of psychological damage arising out of viewing *The Exorcist* have come to light. It was available on video, uncut, in the United Kingdom until the passing of the Video Recordings Act in 1984.

It has been in video shops uncut in Europe for many years without any adverse reaction being recorded. The film was again shown in British cinemas last autumn; there was no hysteria. How do we know there has been no incidence of harm? Of course we cannot be certain; but lobby groups would have rushed to inform us if there were examples. Still, waiting 25 years was a bit excessive - even for the authorities.

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Work won't solve all our problems

I AM, if not the Third Way, then the man in the middle. I think of myself as a LIBERAL, with capital letters throughout, but I suspect that the party on whose benches I sit in the House of Lords regards me as a maverick at best, and a traitor to its manifestos at worst. It would fair to the Lib Dems, if you were to regard the following comments as my own.

Something has clearly gone wrong in the process of slaying the giants of Want, Disease, Ignorance, Squat and Illness. I want to pursue what may well be called the New Social Question of those with but a tenuous hold on full citizenship with its attendant rights, opportunities and obligations. If the welfare state has failed to bring them in, what else can be done to create a more inclusive society? Let me look at two issues of great significance, fraud and work.

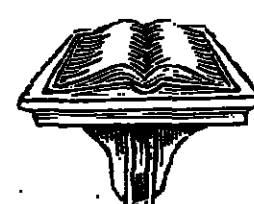
Put at its crudest, we must assume that between 2 per cent and 7 per cent of all money spent on social security - between £2bn and £7bn - is claimed fraudulently.

Crass cases and the presence of organised fraud under-

derline this. The other day, newspapers reported the case of a Belgian resident who regularly comes by Eurostar to collect a housing allowance in Haringey. No-one would defend such practices, or indeed any violation of the law.

The key question is: is fraud really due to greed, or does it actually respond to need?

Could it not be that many of those who manage to get housing benefits, or jobseekers' allowances, or even disability benefits to which they are not entitled, have no other source of income? Indeed to enter nearly-forgotten territory of discourse, is not benefit fraud a less destructive crime than mugging and break-ins and drug peddling would be?



PODIUM

RALF DAHRENDORF
From a lecture on
'The Welfare Society'
given by the sociologist
to the Demos
think tank in London

What is necessary, above all, is to consider ways in which those who have no other source of income can be put in a position which makes it unnecessary for them to break the law.

Conservatives and Labour, and more particularly New Labour, have this in common, that they like to keep people under control. Mr Darling says he has "ended the money-for-nothing culture", and is still ac-

cepted by senior Tories of "outrageous laxity". But what do they want instead?

In fact, the single most characteristic promise held out by Mr Blair's government in its social, economic and educational policies is - work. Welfare to work, education for employment, from benefit dependency to the independence of work - these are the phrases which recur in a plethora of green and white pa-

pers and ministerial statements. Work it appears, will solve all problems.

It would be tempting to speculate precisely what problems can be solved by work.

Problems of expenditure perhaps? That would be nice for the Chancellor, and perhaps for us all. Or is it problems of social control? Is work the last bastion of a matrix of social control that used to be provided by family, school and neighbourhood which are frequently no longer available as disciplinary forces? Is the insistence on work part of the same syndrome of creating a more organised, controlled society?

It can no longer be assumed that GDP growth equals employment creation; jobless growth is a fact. Macro-economic and supply-side conditions of growth do not by themselves create employment; they may do the opposite.

I suspect the most intractable aspect of the new social question is posed by men, especially young men. They expect "regular" jobs, but cannot find them. They begin to reject the entire official society which does not seem to have a place for them.

Before long, they turn to crime, or to drugs, or both. They breed children but don't want to look after them. They begin to drift, often in and out of prison. We have a problem here which defies even social entrepreneurs.

The real issues of our society are micro issues. They require community action.

The advantages of guaranteed basic incomes for all, whether they work or not, are evident. The twin problems of fraud and work would lose their sting. Short of a guaranteed basic income, there are already tested models of similar intent. Working Families Tax Credits are a small step in the right direction, though they do imply work, and they assume families which, for many, may not exist.

I do not think that we know very much about the society in which we are living. We have become obsessed with macro-data. What we need is an ethnography of reality. In the meantime, experiments with basic income guarantees and the promotion of social entrepreneurs are not the worst immediate remedies.

Long live Vastergotland



JAN MORRIS

All Europe is getting a little more ordinary, more like the evening crowds in Kungsträdgården

SWEDEN IS one of the largest of the small members of the European Union – or if you like, one of the smallest of the large ones – so its capital seems to me a good place to contemplate the congeries of lesser states, nations and aspirant minorities that will be the foot soldiers of the European confederation, when it happens; for even in the most liberal progressive of armies there are privileged staff officers and poor bloody infantry.

In Stockholm I often find myself thinking about the quandaries through which all those varied communities must struggle towards their European fulfilments. Consider for a start Kungsträdgården, the pleasant oblong park which runs down to the waterfront in the heart of the city.

On a February evening this is a very picture of bourgeois contentment. Skaters whirl and tumble around a floodlit skating rink to the thump of loudspeaker rock. Comfortable, well-wrapped couples, arm in arm, inspect the not-too-modern art in the gallery on the west side of the square, or pop into the Volvo showroom at the top end, or swathe themselves in blankets for alfresco cappuccinos outside the Restaurant Victoria. Nobody looks very rich, nobody looks very poor; there are no bloated plutocrats in sight, as there are certainly no beggars. Everybody looks – well, in the middle.

But at the bottom end of Kungsträdgården, a statue of King Karl XII of Sweden (1682-1718), holding a sword in one hand, points with the other peremptorily in the direction of Russia. He is not kidding. Under his fierce dynasty this plump, undernourished, comfortable populace really did make itself one of the great powers of Europe, humiliating Russians, Danes, Poles, Saxons, Livonians and heaven knows who else.

Karl XII used to be a great hero of Swedish patriots, but nobody seems to take much notice of his grandiloquent statue now. When I asked a Swedish acquaintance which period of their history most citizens were nostalgic for, he replied without hesitation "the 1950s". It was then that the Swedes first discovered themselves as a modern state, pre-eminent in design, industrially successful, so-



Pro-European Swedes celebrate in Stockholm following the 'yes' vote (of 52 per cent) in their 1994 referendum on EU membership

Björn Elgstrand/AP

cially progressive, but still not too far from the little red house among the lakes and larches which is the Swedish sentimental epitome.

They apparently don't pine for Karl XII and his armies storming across the continent. The stupendous 17th-century Swedish ship *Vasa*, magnificently restored in its museum beside Stockholm's harbour, greatly moves me but evidently does not stir the Swedes to any imperial nostalgia. Swedish soldiers still do footling soldierly things around the guardhouse of the immense Royal Palace, but the palace itself has no king inside it. Karl XVI Gustav and his queen have migrated to a gentler palace out of town.

Half the small nations of Europe have pasts of similar grandeur. The Austrians, the Belgians, the Danes, the Dutch, the Portuguese, all had empires once. The Catalans and the Scots have been gloriously martial in their time. The Irish, the Welsh and the Corsicans had famous champions of their own. All once revelled in generations of swagger and their belligerent illusions.

For as we surely recognise by now, power itself is illusory, and the first challenge facing them all is to accept the transience of glory. The Swedes, it appears to me, were long ago reconciled to lost consequence, and the Irish seem willing to aban-

don recrimination and reproach. Not all their peers, though, have yet swallowed their pride and laid their seductive old ghosts to rest. The Austrians seem half-stuck in the flowery allure of Hapsburgism. The Belgians honour their Belganness with preposterous ceremonials that are not only for the tourist trade, the Scots go on about Robert the Bruce, the Welsh about Owain Glyndwr, the Portuguese about Henry the Navigator.

Often one sees in Stockholm representatives of that ethnic abstraction, the Immigrant Community. They may be Turkish, or Kurdish, or Arab, or Serb, or African, or Gypsy, but they are everywhere in Europe, and the smaller the country, the more they show. The truth is that multiculturalism can be easily absorbed in big countries, but makes small countries feel less special, and specialness means a lot when there are not many of you.

Only yesterday a Swede was complaining to me that Swedishness is in need of imaging. It has no universally recognisable icon, he said, no national logo – no Big Ben or Eiffel Tower or Brandenburg Gate, no *Tour de France* or Pope or Pamplona bull-run, no game specific to itself, no familiar distinction of custom or habit. Wearing Christmas candles on your head is not enough.

Even the presentation of Nobel Prizes in Stockholm Town Hall gets hardly more than a flicker on the world's TV screens.

He was right in a way. The Swedes have evened themselves out so successfully, and on the whole assimilated their immigrants so sensibly, that they have made themselves more or less unnoticeable. Only now and then does somebody in the Stockholm crowd seize my eye – with a loping walk that seems to speak of snowbound forests, or the sudden lovely flash of a Nordic smile.

There is still a nobility of Sweden, 600 families strong, with a House of Nobles where it holds biannual meetings, but its effect upon the ambience is minimal. The single-chamber Parliament, too, is a pale, clean, scoured archetypal of your non-confrontational, equal opportunity assembly, with not an eccentric in sight.

So is this how all the little European countries will be, when Europe is confederated? English, the universal language, is already making everyone seem a bit more like everyone else, and the colossal force of economics, the power behind all our thrones, year by year smooths out inherited bumps and normalises quirks. All Europe is getting a little more ordinary, a little more like the evening crowds in

Kungsträdgården. But I suspect the little states and nations will maintain their individualities longest: towered over as they are by neighbours of greater influence, they have had to work harder to maintain their identities.

I always prefer to speak of a European confederation, rather than a federation. I am not at all sure of the technical difference, but I know that the United States regarded itself as a confederation until 1789, when the Congress made a tighter federal union of it. To my mind, confederation is what the small nations of Europe need, and what is already recognisably coming about everywhere from Finland to Catalonia. Nationalist arrogances are softening, history is blurring at the edges, the preoccupations of defence and foreign affairs are beginning to be seen as matters beyond the competence (or perhaps the interest) of the European rank and file.

It means no loss of self-respect, only a series of national redefinitions. Germany and France are the European powers they always were. Britain wavers. Italy, Spain and Greece adjust. But the small nations, from Belgium, Austria and Sweden down, are obliged to find new ways of being themselves. A confederation of Europe can absorb all their devices. Unlike the United States of America, it can sustain

within itself all manner of variety: of the 15 members of the European Union today, eight are still monarchies, and show few signs of becoming Republics.

A small state can be conformist in some ways, esoteric in others – 14 McDonald's are marked on my map of downtown Stockholm, but the heir to the Swedish throne is still HRH Crown Princess Victoria Angrid Alice Desirée, the Duchess of Vastergotland!

More and more, too, the smaller members of the confederation can realise themselves, and maintain their singularities, in inner cultural and linguistic alliances – the Swedes still with the Finns and Danes, the Celtic countries together, Catalans with Provençals and Corsicans perhaps.

"How do you like the Swedes?" I asked an Italian resident of Stockholm the other day. He made one of those balancing gestures with his hand, the *così così* gesture. "So, so," he said. "They're not like us. Their souls do not sing." Thank God for that, I thought. Who wants Sorrento in Normandy?

The Swedes may have no vibrato in their hearts, but they have the ice and the midnight sun there, and the Saab convertible, and Strindberg, and that little red house among the lakes, and HRH the Duchess of Vastergotland. *Vive les différences!*

RIGHT OF REPLY

DONALD DEWAR



The Secretary of State for Scotland responds to a recent article by Deborah Orr

DEBORAH ORR's vision of the new Scotland is no doubt meant to be very personal. I notice she left some 15 years ago, but has been back for the weekend. I did not recognise her Scotland in the confused whirl of anecdotes.

I am grateful for the tribute to Scotland's optimism, but found it difficult to follow her argument. I do not recommend an early return to Wishaw, given her spectacularly unkind description of that town.

She is entitled to her thoughts, but Scotland is not heading for full blown recession if there is not a further cut in interest rates within weeks. Nor can Scotland on any fair basis be described as finding itself "in an industrial slump which is 10 times worse than that of the rest of the United Kingdom".

Of course, Scotland cannot be insulated from the world's economic problems, and manufacturing industry does face difficult times. But Ms Orr should recognise that jobs are also being created in Scotland and around 20,000 more are in work than was the case one year ago. Can I draw her attention to the headline in the recent Bank of Scotland report – "Demand strengthens in service sector in January. Rate of decline in manufacturing continues to ease" – not quite in tune with her version of the industrial equivalent of *Apocalypse Now*.

Apparently in the pubs there is now talk of the "fabulously vocal looses" in protest against job losses that greeted me on a trip to Inver, where Rangers play. It's a little puzzling as I haven't been there for some five months. The score that day was 0-0 and I don't recall any booing, fal-laloo or otherwise. Still, it's nice to be remembered. Very flattering indeed, but I fear without foundation, even if a splendid piece of whimsy.

A battle between Marx and Freud

CAN FREUD be reconciled with Marx? Interestingly, the ideologies of both superpowers during the Cold War said no, and in the US it was fashionable to use Freud as a weapon with which to "refute" Marx. In the Soviet Union, for 60 years from 1924, the official line was that Freud's doctrine represented both "idealist mystification", and "bourgeois individualism".

It was left to the Frankfurt School, especially Erich Fromm and Herbert Marcuse, to underline the many significant ways in which Marxism and Freudianism converged, and to argue convincingly that the very last belief-



MONDAY BOOK

FREUD AND THE BOLSHIEVICS: PSYCHOANALYSIS IN IMPERIAL RUSSIA AND THE SOVIET UNION
BY MARTIN A. MILLER, YALE UNIVERSITY PRESS, £20

system for which psychoanalysis could act as a support was capitalism. Only at the very beginning of the history of the Soviet Union, during Lenin's New Economic Policy, and at the very end, during Gorbachev's glasnost, did the id, ego, superego and the unconscious

gain a foothold in the USSR. Freud originally hoped that he would find an apostle to take the gospel of psychoanalysis to Russia – someone who would rival Jung in Switzerland, Ferenczi in Budapest, Abraham in Berlin and Ernest Jones in Britain. He had great hopes for Nikolai Osipov, who pioneered the application of Freud's theories to Russian literature, especially Tolstoy, but Osipov had two drawbacks. He was influenced more by Jung and the Swiss psychiatrist Paul Dubois, and he had no stomach for a fight.

When the Bolsheviks seized power in 1917, Osipov fled to Prague, leaving Russian psychoanalysis in the hands of Tatiana Rosenthal. When she committed suicide in 1921, the movement was without a leader until Sabina Spielrein, one of Freud's most brilliant students and a former lover of Jung's, returned to her native Ukraine. She was initially aided by the favourable attitude of both Lenin and Trotsky, but already the Stalinist clouds were gathering.

Martin Miller's scholarly volume concentrates on the period until 1924, analysing in detail the writings of Bernard Bykhovsky and M A Reissner, and the years after 1924, focusing particularly on the work of the subtle psychologist Omitri Vozdve. About the Stalinist era there is little to say. Psychoanalysis was declared a bourgeois heresy, incompatible with Marxist-Leninism, and four main reasons were adduced.

First, Stalin's doctrine of "socialism in one country" meant that any move-

ment with an international dimension was regarded as "antisocialist". Secondly, sexuality or Eros was seen as an aggressive instinct incompatible with the new brotherly love under socialism. Psychoanalysis was also thought to be "soft on homosexuality", which the Stalinist regime viewed as criminal depravity. Finally, the vulgar Marxism of Stalin postulated an utopia where human misery and conflict would wither away, whereas Freud saw them as ineradicable aspects of the human condition.

By the 1930s, it had become much too dangerous for any Russian to attempt a fusion of Freudian and Marxist thought. It became the party line that Pavlov was the last word in psychology, and that psychoanalysis should be consigned to the rubbish dump of bourgeois garbage, along with Gestalt psychology, relativity and quantum theory. Discouraged by the failure of psychoanalysis in the Soviet Union, Freud hit back at his Bolshevik critics, accusing them of naivety: human beings were not perfectible and there was a limit to what social amelioration could do for individuals.

Freud was nettled by charges that Freudianism was simply a new religion and, as such, merely a new opiate for the people. Freud replied that it was Marxism that replicated the worst faults of Christianity: the salvation and the Second Coming, the intolerance of unbelievers and the use of the Inquisition to silence dissenters.

Martin Miller's political perspective on the Soviet Union reads like unconstructed John Foster Dulles-speak from the 1950s, but there can be no denying his erudition, nor the clarity with which he differentiates his four distinct epochs: 1917-24, the Stalin years, 1925-28, and the Gorbachev age of "openness". The flaw with the book is its dry, disinterested quality. Miller is content merely to report the



The father of psychoanalysis

various attempts to reconcile Freud and Marx, but he does not seem to find the issue of any intrinsic interest and there is an above-the-battle flavour to his treatment of the Russian psychoanalysts, as if they were specimens in a laboratory. Miller, alas, proves the truth of the maxim that scholars are rarely intellectuals, and American academics seldom committed.

FRANK MC LYNN

The reviewer's latest book, '1066: The Year of Three Battles', is published by Cape

MONDAY POEM

FACING WINE

BY LI PO (AD701-762), TRANSLATED BY DAVID HINTON

Never refuse wine. I'm telling you,
people come smiling in spring winds:

peach and plum like old friends, their
open blossoms scattering toward me,
singing orioles in jade-green trees,
and moonlight probing gold winejars.

Yesterday we were flush with youth,
and today, white hair's an onslaught.

Bramble's overgrown Shih-hu Temple,
and deer roam Ku-su Terrace ruins:

it's always been like this, yellow dust
choking even imperial gates closed

in the end, if you don't drink wine,
where are those ancient people now?

Our poems until Wednesday come from David Hinton's translation of "Selected Poems of Li Po", published by Anvil Press (£9.95), which this year celebrates 30 years of independent poetry publishing

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Meredith Edwards

MEREDITH EDWARDS was one of those Welsh character actors who, during the post-war years found parts in the comedy films largely associated with Ealing Studios. In *A Run For Your Money* (1949), an affectionate but stereotypical view of the Welsh in which a group of rugby-loving miners spend an international day in London with uproarious results, he starred alongside the wild-eyed, dissolute harpist Hugh Griffith and the handsome dimwit Donald Houston who is fleeced by a West End tart played by Moira Lister – the sort of woman, as one collier puts it, who paints her toenails.

Now the Welsh are notoriously difficult to please when it comes to seeing themselves on film and many found *A Run For Your Money*, which Ealing intended to be the Welsh equivalent of *Whisky Galore*, too simplistic and, at worst, patronising. The film does have some nice comic touches, however, as when a voice over the loudspeaker at Paddington asks Mr Thomas Jones and Mr David Jones to come to the stationmaster's office, and a horde of leek-bedecked fans answer to these archetypal Welsh names.

It was characteristic of Edwards that, offered a chance to work in Hollywood on the strength of his memorable performance, he turned it down and chose to stay at home. He was never to regret his decision, for he was rarely out of work thereafter.

Although he had no formal training – his first job after leaving Rubab Grammar School was that of laboratory assistant at the Court-taids factory in Flint – he had become a professional actor in 1938 when he joined the Welsh National Theatre Company which the quixotic Lord Howard de Walden was trying to found at Plas Newydd, the former home of the Misses Butler and Ponsonby, "the Ladies of Llangollen". This touring group, although it made little headway as a national company, taught him the rudiments of his trade and inspired in him the ideal of a permanent home for the theatrical profession in Wales, for which he was to campaign long and hard, but to no avail.

Edwards's acting career proper began at the Liverpool Playhouse, where he played in *Julius Caesar*, but it was interrupted in the war when, as a conscientious objector on Christian pacifist grounds, he was set to work as a fireman in Liverpool, Chester and London, and later drafted into the Non-Combatant Corps, where he entertained the troops with amateur theatricals sponsored by Ensa.

He spent most of the war years in Palestine. His stage career was resumed after the war at the Old Vic, where he played Glendower in *Henry IV* and, less predictably, John of Gaunt in *Richard II*, the "happy breed" speech in the latter play the *London Evening News* commented, "After hearing Meredith Edwards's impassioned delivery of John O'Gaunt's speech, every schoolboy who has got it from memory will go back and get it by heart."

Edwards was born, a collier's son, in 1917 in the hill-top village of Rhosllanerchrugog, near Wrexham, in industrial north-east Wales. The district has a robust Welsh-speaking culture and a tradition of radical politics which left an indelible mark on him. He spoke Welsh fluently, delighting in the local peculiarities of Rhos speech, including its retention of the familiar *ti* (thou) with which its inhabitants habitually address friend and stranger alike, and he wrote it with panache in his autobiography, *Ar Lwyfan Aur* ("On an hour's stage", 1977).

The language was at the heart of his patriotism and he worked tirelessly on its behalf, contributing generously to such causes as the Welsh Schools Movement, in particular the Welsh School in London (now at Willesden Green) in the days when the LCC was refusing to fund it. He was also a political nationalist and left-wing member of Plaid Cymru, serving as a member of the Flintshire County Council and standing as the party's candidate in the West Denbigh constituency at the General Election of 1966. During the referendum on the National Assembly in 1979 he played a prominent part in the Yes campaign.

In demand as a specifically Welsh character actor throughout the 1950s, Edwards made about 50 films in all, notably *The Blue Lamp* (1950), which led to the television series *Dixon of*

Dock Green, *Where No Vultures Fly* (1951), *Girdle of Gold* (1952), *The Cruel Sea* (1953), *The Long Arm* (1956), and *Dunkirk* (1958). In the last, he insisted on delivering the dying words of his character, a Welsh Tommy lying wounded in an orchard, in Welsh. "Who the hell's going to understand?" asked the exasperated producer, Leslie Norman. "I have the feeling that when someone is dying," Edwards replied in his serene way, "they go back to their childhood, and if I went back to mine, it would be a Welsh-speaking one". So he expires in Welsh, while John Mills, with stiff upper lip, tells his men they will have to leave him and push on.

Returning permanently to Wales in the early 1960s, although still making forays to London for work with *Z Cars*, *Coronation Street* and *Softly Softly*, in which he made regular appearances, usually as the affable Welshman with homely features and a mischievous grin, Edwards settled in the village of Cilcain, in Flintshire, so that his children could be educated in Welsh. One of the best theatres in Wales, Theatr Clwyd, was situated nearby and he returned to the stage with great success, particularly in Chekhov's *The Three Sisters*.

Among his finest cameo parts was as the stern clergyman in *Only Two Can Play* (1962), based on the Kingsley Amis novel *That Uncertain Feeling* (1955), who presses the hapless Peter Sellers, a candidate for a librarianship, about his knowledge of Welsh literature. He was much in demand on Welsh television, initially with Granada (where Siân Phillips was his co-presenter) and especially after the advent of S4C, the Welsh-language fourth channel, in 1982.

He appeared in Welsh versions of plays by Molière and Pinter, and was one of the German generals plotting against Hitler in Saunders Lewis's *Brud* ("Treason"). His last film was *Bride of War* (1997), a tragic love-story set in occupied Poland and directed by his son Peter, now Head of Drama at BBC, with his other children, Ioan and Lisa, also work in television.

In addition Edwards worked with Amnesty International, CND Cymru, Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg (The Welsh Language Society) and Equity, the actors' union, of which he was a Life President. In 1996, as part of the celebrations marking the centenary of cinema, he was chosen to unveil the plaque at Rhyd-y-main, where Emyl Williams's film *The Last Days of Dolwyn* had been made in 1949, an acknowledgement of his contribution to the theatre, cinema and television of Wales over more than half a century.

MEIC STEPHENS

Gwilym Meredith Edwards, actor: born Rhosllanerchrugog, Denbighshire 10 June 1917; married 1942 Daisy Clark (two sons, one daughter); died Abergele, Denbighshire 8 February 1999.



Edwards in *Y Gwirthgynnydd* ("The Opposers"), 1974, left to right: as John Whitgift, 17th-century Archbishop of Canterbury; Col John Jones, Merionethshire roundhead; the Rev Daniel Rowlands, 19th-century Welsh nonconformist clergyman, and James Connolly, leader of the Easter Rising, Dublin, 1916

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August Everding

ONE OF the most influential directors of opera in post-war Germany, August Everding was also an extremely competent administrator, holding positions at the Hamburg State Opera and the Bavarian State Opera in Munich, where he became General Intendant of all the Bavarian state theatres. In 1984 he was considered for the post of general manager of the Metropolitan Opera, but withdrew when he realised that in New York he would not exercise the complete artistic control to which he was accustomed at home.

At a time when German opera houses were often dominated by "conceptual" directors, Everding was an unashamed traditionalist, which did not mean that his productions were lacking in ideas: on the contrary, his work was always full of original touches, but they were invariably used to further the dramatic impact of an opera. Having begun his career in the spoken theatre, he took it for granted that the plot of a drama, however complicated, should be expounded with clarity, and his opera production were always models in this respect.

August Everding was born in Bottrop in 1928. Too young to take any active part in the war, he studied piano, philosophy, theology and dramaturgy at the universities of Bonn and Munich. He served his apprenticeship in the theatre under Hans Schweikart at the Munich Kammer-spiele, of which he became artistic director in 1958, and manager in 1963.

His first operatic production was of Verdi's *La traviata*, which he directed for the Munich State Opera in 1967. Later that year he – metaphorically speaking – plunged in at the deep end, staging *Tristan und Isolde* in Vienna. This was a very successful attempt at a very difficult opera, and though he was still engaged at the Kammer-spiele, offers came flooding in from the opera houses of Europe and America.

In March 1968 Everding worked for the first time in Hamburg, directing the world premiere of Humphrey Searle's *Hamlet* (later to be seen at Covent Garden, though not in Everding's production). Later that year he returned to Munich for Carl Orff's *Prometheus*, which had been premiered some months earlier in Stuttgart.

Then in 1969 he was invited to stage *Der fliegende Holländer* at Bayreuth, a signal honour as he was only the third director not belonging to the Wagner family to work at the festival during its entire history. With designs by Josef Svoboda, the production was much admired, and the same team returned to Bayreuth in 1974 to stage *Tristan und Isolde*.

Meanwhile in autumn 1969 Everding went to San Francisco to direct *La traviata*, and in June 1970 he made his London debut at Covent Garden with a production of Richard Strauss's *Salome*, in which the staging, Andrzej Majewski's marvellously colourful designs, the conducting of Georg Solti and the performance of Grace Bumbry in the title role all contributed to its huge success. Unfortunately Everding did not return to Covent Garden until 1979, when his staging of Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* was equally successful. The pantomime aspects of the opera were much in evidence, while the bogus Egyptian priests became believable 18th-century servants and men of letters.

Everding began his enduring association with the Metropolitan Opera in 1971 with *Tristan und Isolde*, which was particularly admired for being the first production to use the full technical resources of the Lincoln Center house. He returned to New York in 1976 for *Lohengrin*; in 1974 for *Boris Godunov*, a production later seen in both Chicago and San Francisco; and in 1985 for *Khovanshchina*.

Nineteen seventy-three, when he left the Kammer-spiele, was a particularly busy year. *Farsfall* at the Paris Opera was followed by one of his greatest triumphs, *Die Zauberflöte* at the Savonlinna Festival in Finland, which was repeated almost every year until 1993. At the Salzburg Festival that year he staged the world premiere of Orff's *De temporum fine commoedia* ("Drama of the end of time").

In the autumn of 1973 Everding went to Hamburg as Resident Director of the State Opera. The four years he spent there were among the

most fruitful of his career. Having already staged *Salome* in Hamburg, Everding chose Strauss's *Elektra* as his first new production, surprising everyone by his fidelity to Hugo von Hofmannsthal's stage directions in the text. This production was taken to Paris.

Next he tackled *Khovanshchina*, 10 years before he staged Musorgsky's epic in New York. After revivals of *La traviata* and *Tosca*, in 1975 he directed Verdi's *Otello*, with Plácido Domingo singing the title role for the first time. That year a disastrous fire (started by a dismissed stagehand) destroyed sets and costumes for 34 of the 59 productions in store.

During his last two seasons in Hamburg, Everding staged a superb *Parsfall*, with brilliant Art Nouveau-style decors by Ernst Fuchs, which remains my favourite of all his productions. This was followed by *Lohengrin* and *Der Rosenkavalier*. After an interlude in Salzburg for a baroque piece by Stefano Landi, *Il Sant'Alessio*, Everding took over as Intendant of the Bavarian Opera in Munich. A new *Lohengrin* was followed by *Die Zauberflöte* (the Covent Garden version was a recreation of this) and a curiosity, *Das Labyrinth* by Peter von Winter, whose libretto, also by Emanuel Schikander, is a sequel to that of *Die Zauberflöte*.

During his years in Munich Everding directed *Die Meistersinger* with Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau as Hans Sachs; Mozart's *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* and *Mitridate, re di Ponto*; Honegger's *Jeune fille au buche*; another new *Tristan*; and Orff's *Die Bernauerin*, staged in the courtyard of the Alter Hof in July 1985 to celebrate the composer's 90th birthday.

In 1983 Everding was appointed General Director of the Munich state theatres, which include the Nationaltheater, the Theater am Gärtnerplatz and the Staatsschauspiel. Certain of Everding's detractors saw this as a polite way of pushing him upstairs. Whatever the truth, during the last decade of his career he worked a great deal elsewhere in Berlin, Cologne, Düsseldorf and Zurich, as well as Chicago, Sydney, Buenos Aires and Warsaw.

Invited by Robert Satanowski, the Music Director of the Theatre Wielki, Warsaw, to stage Wagner's *Der Ring des Nibelungen*, with a mixed cast of German, American and Polish singers, Everding together



Complete artistic control

with Satanowski achieved a magnificent result in only two years, 1988 and 1989. No complete *Ring* cycle had ever been staged in Warsaw before; the orchestra, the public and many of the singers were totally unacquainted with the work, but Everding's dramatic instinct and his ability to clarify even Wagner's most abstruse ideas triumphed.

After his success in Warsaw, in 1992 Everding began to build up another *Ring* cycle, this time in Chicago, where the *Ring* had last been performed in 1930. Spread over four seasons, the production took longer than in Warsaw to complete, but in the spring of 1996 three cycles, designed by John Conklin and conducted by Zubin Mehta, were performed and rapturously received by the audience. Everding's job was when he died as artistic director for the German display in the Millennium World Fair, to be held in Hanover in 2000.

ELIZABETH FORBES

August Everding, theatre and opera director and administrator: born Bottrop, Germany 31 October 1928; married (four sons); died Munich 27 January 1999.

Peter Bowling

HARRY BOWLING, "King of the Cockney Sagas", was 57 before he wrote his first novel, *Conner Street's War*, set in the London docklands at the outbreak of the Second World War. It was the first of 18 bestselling cockney sagas that, like *Ironmonger's Daughter*, *Tuppence To Tokyo* Street or his last, *The Whispering Years* (to be published in June), told poignant, nostalgic – but not romanticised – stories of good-hearted ordinary people in extraordinary circumstances in close-knit south London communities.

His books – almost a million copies sold by the time of his death – both fed into and helped redefine the popular stereotype of the "corblimey Cockney" whose sense of humour would help him or her win through. Bowling drew on his own experiences of growing up during the Blitz and on the Bowling family history – in particular the stories told him by his first mother-in-law, Edie, who was a Bermoneyside barmaid until she was 70.

Bowling was a genuine Cockney, which is to say that he was born not in the East End but in Bermoneyside, south east London, within the sound of the bells of Mary-le-Bow on Eastcheap. Born in poverty in 1931, he was the eldest of two surviving

children – one of his earliest memories was sleeping three in a bed whilst next door his 18-month old sister lay dying in the next room of their tiny back-to-back.

His father had been crippled on the Somme and was subsequently unemployed during the Depression. The family existed with help from friends and neighbours and with the few shillings his father made selling matches and shoes in the street markets. His mother used to whiten the steps and hang up white lace curtains in their home whilst indoors the family battled to keep out the mice and rats that came in from the piles of hay outside the carter's next door.

When the Second World War broke out, Bowling's school was closed but he was not evacuated. He and his younger brother ran wild in the streets until they began to attend a local boys' club run by Methodists. Bowling retained a vivid memory of a bright, sunny day in September 1940 when he watched from the bank of the Thames as bombs rained down on the Surrey Docks, setting them and the oil spill on the river alight.

His father helped with his early education and both Bowling sons passed scholarships to Bermoneyside Central School. Bowling left school



There is still so much to be told

at 14 to supplement the family income by working at a riverside provision merchant as an office boy. When he was 17 he learned to drive and got a job delivering wines and spirits to West End hotels and private houses – including the home of Laurence Olivier and Vivien Leigh. (Olivier tipped him 6d. "He was a real gentleman," Bowling recalled.)

He was called up for National Service in 1950 and served in Austria as a driver with the Royal Signals. After demob he returned to lorry driving. He married Shirley in 1957. Their first home was a slum tenement block in Bermoneyside where their two eldest children were born. Bowling, beginning a lifelong interest in community affairs, successfully led a campaign by the tenants' group to get the block condemned.

He moved his family to a high-rise flat in New Cross, where his youngest child was born. For several years he worked as a milkman, meat cutter, carpenter and decorator but went back to lorry driving – for a brewery – in 1966. In 1970 the family moved to Deptford. He took early retirement in 1981 and in 1983 became a community worker for Lewisham Social Services.

His father had encouraged a love of literature, making him aware that "good books were second only in importance to bread on the table". He had written articles for local community magazines and (unpublished) short stories but his ambition was to write a novel set in the Second World War "telling it like it was".

He showed the first draft of what was to become *Conner Street's War* to his son, Stephen, who had just got his English degree at Cambridge. Bowling later recalled: "After a couple of days Steve said: 'Do you real-

ly want to know what I think? It's rubbish.' So I tore it up, sat down and started again." He spent five years writing *Conner Street's War*. It was two more years before, in 1987, the newly formed Headline Book Publishing bought it for an advance of £1,500. The book became first a local then a national bestseller. Other best-sellers followed in quick succession.

Bowling's wife, Shirley, died at the end of the 1980s. Later he married again and he and his second wife, Edna, divided their time between Deptford and Chorley, Lancashire. Bowling always took his research seriously because of his commitment to "tell things as they really were". He regularly visited clubs and old people's homes, to gather stories of times gone by. "There is still so much to be told," he once said. "When these old people die, it would be awful if their stories died with them." Harry Bowling did his bit to ensure that at least some of their stories will live on.

PETER GUTTRIDGE

Henry John Bowling, writer: born London 30 September 1931; twice married (one son, two daughters); died Chorley, Lancashire 5 February 1999.

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Margaret Broadley



It's a jigsaw puzzle

"THE WARD sister was the monarch of all she surveyed – it was the best job in the hospital and left alone I would never have done anything else," wrote Margaret Broadley, recalling her appointment at the Royal London Hospital, Whitechapel, in 1929.

The major part of her nursing career was spent at the London, to which, in her nineties, she went to work on its archives, strap-hanging on the Central Line tube. If she had

not left in her fifties to care for her mother she might have become its matron. She was the archetypal senior nurse of the days when matrons were matrons. "Tough but charming with it, and able to get the best out of people," says Lord Murray, former TUC general secretary, who, with his nurse wife Heather, were friends as fellow Methodists.

Margaret Broadley's father, an East Grinstead businessman who started a chain of gentlemen's out-

fitters, was willing to support her through medical school, a bold course for a woman in the 1920s. She, however, opted for nursing, although she subsequently rather regretted not studying medicine. She entered the London in 1923, because it was willing to take her at 20 whereas Guy's wanted her to wait until she was 21.

She had in fact to have over a year's sick leave as a probationer, contracting English and German measles, scarlet fever and diphthe-

ria. But she went on to qualify as a midwife, took a sister tutor's diploma "because I thought I'd be a better ward sister with it", and in 1946 became assistant matron in charge of the student nurses, making sure that every ward and department where students worked was adequately staffed. She explained the job to the Queen when she visited the London: "It's a jigsaw puzzle that never stands still."

In two autobiographical books, *Patients Come First* (1980) and *Patients Are People* (1990), Broadley described with characteristic humour her career at the London. They were illustrated by her own sketches. She also published a book on Nursing and Community Service and a nurses' text-book on bandaging.

A devoted Methodist, Broadley was serving tea at Loughton Methodist Church a fortnight before she died. A time-capsule in the old church contained a Methodist

Record announcing her birth and that of her still-born twin. She never married. "The enormous number of men killed in the First World War left a generation of spinsters for whom there was no hope of marriage," she told a seminar at the London.

LAURENCE DOPSON

Margaret Broadley, nurse and author: born East Grinstead, West Sussex 9 June 1903; died Epping, Essex 5 February 1999.

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August
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Gwen Guthrie

THE AMERICAN soul diva Gwen Guthrie is best remembered for "Ain't Nothin' Goin' On But the Rent", one of the biggest dance anthems of the Eighties, which captured the public imagination with its catchphrase: "No romance without finance. You gotta have a J.O.B. if you wanna be with me." Over the course of a varied career, the disco star contributed to dozens of albums as a composer, lead and backing vocalist and was one of the first recording artists to raise money for the fight against Aids.

Born in 1950 in the suburban town of Newark, New Jersey, Guthrie studied classical music and piano at school. This grounding would stand her in good stead when she later developed her skills as a composer. She was already a rather good singer and, in the early Seventies, joined the Ebonyettes and the Matchmakers alongside Larry Blackmon, later the frontman with Cameo. Having graduated, Guthrie opted for a career in teaching but kept her hand in by doing jingle sessions for radio commercials singing the praises of Chevrolet, Avon or Kentucky Fried Chicken.

In 1974, she began recording and touring as a backing vocalist with Aretha Franklin. In the studio, she struck up a friendship with a fellow session musician, Patrick Grant, and the pair wrote seven songs for the debut album of the girl-group Sister Sledge. They also penned the catchy "This Time I'll Be Sweeter", recorded by the Motown legend Martha Reeves and later by the UK soul vocalist Linda Lewis, and the infectious funk hit "Supernatural Thing" which made the US Top Five in 1975 for Ben E. King.

The following year, Guthrie joined Roberta Flack on a major US tour. "She just had a wonderful voice," said Flack. "The sound was very special. What made it different was the resonance. She couldn't hide her voice. It was that kind of voice that penetrated."

Before stepping out of the shadows, Guthrie wrote "God Don't Like Ugly" (issued in 1978 on the Roberta Flack album) and later sang background on Flack's *Blue Lights in the Basement* album (1977) and several duets that Flack recorded with Donny Hathaway.

By 1979, Guthrie had relocated to Jamaica, where she renewed an acquaintance with Sly Dunbar and Robbie Shakespeare, the legendary rhythm section behind half the island's releases. Robbie Shakespeare recalls:

We first met Gwen in New York in 1978 when she was one of the backing singers on Peter Tosh's *Bush Doctor* album. We asked all the singers to sing individually and, when Gwen's turn came, we were blown away: we thought she sounded like a bird. When she came to live in Jamaica, we nicknamed her "Natty" Gwen. We went on to work with her on a project called *Bits And Pieces* for Island Records.

The former Weiler Peter Tosh, then on the Rolling Stones label, subsequently recorded the *Mystic Man* and *Wanted: Dead Or Alive* albums with Guthrie, who also duetted with him on 1981's "Nothing But Love".

Sly Dunbar points out that "Gwen started Sly and Robbie's rhythm/blues career and also kicked off Island's R&B department with her song 'It Should've Been You' in 1982." With Sly and Robbie as producers, the singer cut the rest of her debut album, simply entitled

'In the studio, you only had to give Gwen the rhythm. She would sit and draw flowers while she worked on the lyrics'

Gwen Guthrie, and the 1983 follow-up, *Podlock* (the title track, "Seventh Heaven" and "Hopscotch" were all hits on the R&B charts).

Just For You, produced by Eumir Deodato and released in 1985 was less successful; Guthrie quit Island for Polydor Records and hooked up with Sly and Robbie again for "Ain't Nothin' Goin' On But the Rent". "We laid down the rhythm," remembers Robbie. "In the studio, you only had to give Gwen the rhythm. She would sit and draw flowers while she worked on lyrics. She was wicked fun and had a great personality."

Years before the Spice Girls, Guthrie's "Ain't Nothin' Goin' On But the Rent" struck a blow for girl power and the singer's feisty attitude paid dividends in Britain. The hooky, irresistible single climbed up the charts, eventually reaching No 5 in the summer of 1986. Guthrie was the toast of the UK soul scene, sell-



Guthrie's 'Ain't Nothin' Goin' On But the Rent' struck a blow for girl power

ing out the Hammersmith Odeon in London and the Fairfield Hall in Croydon (with Curiosity Killed the Cat as support) and scoring two further Top 40 hits with a cover of the Carpenters' song "They Long To Be Close To You" and the title track from her 1986 album *Good To Go Lover*.

However, in the American market, "Ain't Nothin' Goin' On But the Rent" didn't quite achieve the crossover success it deserved and Guthrie moved from Polydor to Warner Brothers. Despite a crazy cover of the Marvelettes' "Too Many Fish in the Sea", her 1988 album *Lifeline* sold poorly and, even though *Hot Times*, the follow-up, included a duet with George Benson on "I'll Give My Best to You", Guthrie's time seemed to have passed. According to Benson, Guthrie "made you feel good about yourself. She had a very down-to-earth, down-home type of voice, but she was very articulate."

A versatile vocalist with precise pitch, Guthrie came, however, to rely increasingly on her songwriting income, and session work. Over the years, she sang with a host of soul stars such as Angela Bofill, Billy Griffin, Thelma Houston and Luther Vandross, as well as with Steely Dan and Kenny Loggins. She was also one of the few American artists to understand the dynamics of reggae and recorded a couple of smooth lovers' rock tracks with Boris Gardiner.

In 1986, another visit to Jamaica inspired the joyous single "Girlfriend's Boyfriend", before health problems began taking their toll.

PIERRE PERRONE

Gwen Guthrie, singer, songwriter: born Newark, New Jersey 1950; two daughters; died Orange, New Jersey 3 February 1999.

Ben Margolis

DURING AMERICA'S squalid witch-hunt epoch, the lawyer and civil libertarian Ben Margolis worked fearlessly and eloquently to clear the names of men and women who had been rendered unemployable by the motion picture industry.

Margolis's parents had escaped the anti-Semitism of their native Russia by coming to New York City. Eventually, they were financially able to move to Santa Barbara, California, where their son decided upon a legal career. He studied law in San Francisco and practised there, later moving to Los Angeles; in both cities, he specialised in cases involving civil rights and labour disputes.

After successfully fighting the deportation of Harry Bridges, the Australian-born leader of the Longshoremen's Union, Margolis gained further attention in 1944 in the controversial "Sleepy Lagoon" murder case. Two years earlier, a large group of "zoot-suited" young Mexican-Americans had been rounded up and accused of the brutal murder of a fellow Hispanic near a Los Angeles reservoir nicknamed "Sleepy Lagoon". Margolis accused the police of racism in denying the defendants the right to consult their at-

torneys, and won an historic reversal of their convictions.

In 1947, when the Oscar-winning screenwriter Ring Lardner Jr and nine other left-wing writers, producers and directors received subpoenas from the newly revived House on Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC), the film-makers badly needed someone courageous enough to advise them. Margolis's name, said Lardner, "just automatically came up if you were involved in a civil liberties case". Despite Margolis's strenuous efforts, the "Hollywood 10", who had refused to reveal their political affiliations, were convicted of contempt of Congress, and duly fined, imprisoned and blacklisted.

In 1961 Margolis and his fellow attorney Robert W. Kenny defended the Communist screenwriter Paul Jarrico when he too faced the HUAC interrogators. While Jarrico was indignant, telling the committee that history would rank the stand of the blacklisted screenwriter against his accusers alongside the stand of Thomas Jefferson against the English sedition laws, Kenny was hissing "Take it easy! Take it easy!" into his left ear, and Margolis was hissing "Give it to 'em! Give it to

'em!" into his right ear. (Jarrico was blacklisted until 1968.)

In 1961, Edward Dmytryk, the film director who had been one of the "Hollywood 10" four years earlier, returned to Washington and appeared as an extremely co-operative witness. As well as naming 26 people as subversives, Dmytryk told HUAC that he had attended a Communist committee meeting at the home of Margolis, and that the attorney had been the host.

After HUAC's chairman J. Parnell Thomas was convicted of misappropriating government funds and sent to the same prison where two of the "Hollywood 10" were incarcerated, Georgia's John S. Wood succeeded Thomas. Between 1961 and 1963 Chairman Wood conducted an exhaustive ten-part investigation into reds in the entertainment industry.

In 1962 Margolis received a subpoena, ordering him to testify before HUAC. "I'll try to help before they get any information out of me about my clients," he told friends and colleagues. He stayed true to that vow during this testimony, refusing to answer questions about private political beliefs. When Wood rebuked him for his "contemptuous attitude", Margolis replied, "I feel nothing but con-

tempt for this committee. You have no right to tell people how to think."

In 1968 Margolis and Robert Kenny again joined forces to represent 23 former film-makers who sued the Hollywood studio for \$50m. The two attorneys told the United States Supreme Court that their clients, who had invoked the Fifth Amendment to protect themselves from self-incrimination, had been unconstitutionally blacklisted. The suit was dismissed.

That same year, Margolis represented Oleta O'Connor Yates, a California Communist who had refused to inform on fellow party members in cross-examination, and had been sent to prison for criminal contempt. Margolis succeeded in having Yates's sentence set aside. The following year HUAC named Margolis and 38 other lawyers as members of "an elite corps" who were supporting Communism.

In December 1974 the American Civil Liberties Union in Los Angeles gave a dinner to honour the "Hollywood 10", Robert Kenny and Ben Margolis.

DICK VOISBURGH

Ben Margolis, lawyer: born New York 23 April 1910; married (three sons); died Portland, Oregon 27 January 1999.

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

MEMORIAL SERVICES

HUGHES: A Service of Thanksgiving for the life and work of Mr. Ted Hughes OM OBE will be held in Westminster Abbey at 11am on Thursday 13 May. Those wishing to attend are asked to apply in writing, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope, to: The Assistant Receiver General (Protegé), Room 13, The Chapter Office, 20 Dean's Yard, Westminster Abbey, London SW1P 3PA. Tickets will be posted on Thursday 29 April. All are welcome to apply for tickets.

Announcements for BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS are charged at £2.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER notices, which must be submitted in writing, are charged at £10 a line. VAT extra.

BIRTHDAYS

Mr John Adams, composer, 52; Mr Clive Aslet, editor, *Country Life*, 44; Sir Nicholas Bayne, former High Commissioner to Canada, 62; Sir Harold Beeley, historian and former ambassador, 90; Miss Claire Bloom, actress, 68; Sir Stephen Brown, former chairman, Stone-Platt Industries, 93; Mr Dan Crompton, former Chief Constable, Nottinghamshire, 58; Mrs Chloé Davis, former chairman, Consumer Affairs Group of National Organisations, 90; Sir Maurice Drake, former High Court Judge, 76; Mr Frank Dunkop, former director of the Edinburgh Festival, 72; Mr Paul Ferris, author and journalist, 70; Mr John Greenway MP, 53; Mr Gerald Harper, actor, 70; Miss Diana Jones, jockey, 49; Professor Andrew Miller, principal and Vice-

Chancellor, Stirling University, 63; Mr Charles Needham, former chairman, Coalite, 75; Sir Richard O'Brien, former chairman, Manpower Services Commission, 79; Sir William Reid, former Ombudsman, 68; Miss Jane Seymour, actress, 48; Miss Clare Short MP, Secretary of State for International Development, 53; Mr Peter Squire, former headmaster, Bedford Modern School, 62; Mr John Stainer, musician, 84; Sir Alan Ward, a Lord Justice of Appeal, 61.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Galileo Galilei, astronomer and mathematician, 1564; Louis XV, King of France, 1710; Jeremy Bentham, philosopher and writer, 1748; Cyrus Hall McCormick, inventor of the mechanical reaper, 1809; Charles Lewis Tiffany, jeweller, 1812;

Sir Ernest Henry Shackleton, Antarctic explorer, 1874; Henry Mayo Bateman, cartoonist, 1887; Graham Hill, racing driver, 1929. Deaths: Nat "King" Cole (Nathaniel Adams Cole), singer and musician, 1965. On this day: the first cargo of frozen meat left New Zealand for Britain, 1882; British troops reached the Rhine, 1945; Britain changed over to decimal currency, 1971. Today is the Feast Day of St Agape of Terni, St Sigfrid of Växjö, St Tanco or Tatlo and St Walfrid or Galfrid.

LECTURES

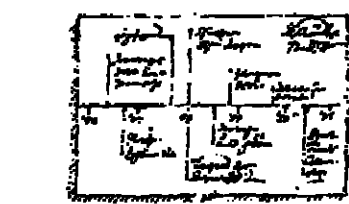
Victoria and Albert Museum: Patricia Baker, "Arms and Armour of the Samurai", 4pm. Royal Academy of Arts, at the Society of Antiquaries, London W1: Kathleen Adler, "Monet, Whistler, Sargent: Impressions of Venice", 1pm.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron, attends the Air League's 90th Anniversary Banquet at the Mansion House, London EC2. The Princess Royal, Patron, The Butler Trust, visits HM Prison Castle Huntly, Longforgan, nr Dundee, Perth and Kinross; attends the Scottish Equestrian Association's Scottish Equestrian Gathering and Young Achievers Day at the Gleneagles Hotel, Auchterarder, Perth and Kinross; and, as Patron, Scottish Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, officially opens the Citizens Advice Bureau at Drysdale Street, Alloa, Clackmannanshire.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.



HISTORICAL NOTES

KIRSTY MCLEOD

The lamentable legacy of royal parenting

"THE HOUSE of Hanover, like ducks, produces bad parents," Owen Morshead, a former Royal Librarian, once observed. How so? "They trample on their young."

Morshead was George V's Librarian. The sailor king has been typecast over the years by biographers as a flawed but fundamentally decent man, bluff rather than brutal. Yet he was a lamentable parent, at his worst with his sons, whom he alternately scorned and neglected.

The heir to the throne, Edward, known to his family as David, hated the role of "princeling" which was his destiny. His younger brother, Albert (later to become George VI), had been reduced by his childhood experiences to a stammering, knock-kneed invalid. He suffered chronic abdominal trouble and was plagued by an uncontrollable temper.

George V's inability to curb his own temper terrorised his offspring. The royal children lived on edge, in fear of their father's retribution. Serious misdemeanours resulted in a summons to the library. The thrashings their father administered there can have done little to foster a love of literature in the young princes though here too George V was following established Hanoverian royal practice. Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's beloved Consort, was even-handed in whipping his daughters as well as his sons.

The young Prince Albert, the future George VI, developed a stammer and became as physically incapable of expressing himself as his parents were emotionally uncommunicative. His father, who did not like to see what he considered weakness, was impatient with his affliction. "Get it out," he would belittle as the child struggled to speak. The result, in a highly-strung boy, was crippling insecurity. As late as his teens, Albert would sit by himself in a dark room, rather than draw attention to himself by asking one of the innumerable servants to light the gas.

An unimaginative, blinkered martinet as a parent, George V was nevertheless supported by a wife. Princess Mary had endured an uneasy childhood with chronically impoverished parents. Her engagement to Prince George rescued her from the shame. She never forgot to whom she owed her magnificent jewellery, her status, the clothes she adored. She obeyed George, revered him and colluded with him against their children. Had May married some minor German princeling, the natural warmth which some old friends occasionally glimpsed in her might have been allowed free rein. As it was she felt it incumbent on herself to be majestic.

The general opinion was that she was cold and stiff and unmaternal. "I have to remember," she rationalised the distant relationship she and George had with their children, "that their father is also their King". We shall never know what sort of parental legacy Edward VIII would have passed on. An adolescent case of mumps and his failure to produce children suggest possible sterility. In any case, his own lack of mothering led him to search for this from the women he bedded. At 25 he was addressing his mistress Freda Dudley Ward as his "very own beloved little Freddie mummy". In his forties, his latent masochism finally met its match in Wallis Simpson's need to control.

With all the circumstances of his brutal upbringing against him, George VI nevertheless managed to reverse the Hanoverian trend and to become a devoted and solicitous parent. In this he was helped by her wife, who brought with her the memory and experience of her untrammelled Scottish childhood. Together, they established a new, informal, almost domestic royal style - a world of horses and dogs and picnics and games of Snap and Happy Families. And while immensely proud of his eldest daughter, George VI was sensitive enough to remember his own upbringing and ensure that his younger child did not, like him, always feel second-best.

Kirsty McLeod is author of 'Battle Royal' (Constable, £20)

CASE SUMMARIES

15 FEBRUARY 1999

Privilege

R v Manchester Crown Court, ex p R; QBD, Div Ct (Lord Bingham CJ, Brian Smedley J) 2 Feb 1999.

The following notes of judgments were prepared by the reporters of the *All England Law Reports*.

Sentencing

R v Simmons; CA, Crim Div (Henry LJ, Mitchell J, Judge David Mellor) 22 Jan 1999.

Whilst the culpability or criminality of a defendant, particularly in relation to carelessness while driving, remained the primary consideration in determining sentence, the court was not concerned with the purpose of giving and receiving legal advice. In order to determine whether documents fell within the section it was necessary to consider the function and nature of the documents sought.

Timothy King QC, Ahmed Nadim Kristina Harrison, Solicitors for the applicant; L Clement Goldstone QC, Adrian J Farrow (CPS) for the Crown.

David Mason (Weightmans, Birmingham) for the appellant.

Crime

R v Law; CA (Crim Div) (Swinton Thomas LJ, Tucker, Penry Davey JJ) 1 Feb 1999.

Section 51(1) of the Firearms Act 1968, which provided that an offence was committed where a person was in possession of "any firearm which is so designed or adapted that two or more missiles can be successively discharged without repeated pressure on the trigger", did not require consideration of the subjective intention of the designer or adaptor as to the use of the firearm. In construing the section, assistance was not provided either by the authorities or the dictionary definition of the word "design".

Mark Harris (Wainwright & Cummins) for the appellant; Geraint Walters (CPS) for the Crown.

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QBD, Div Ct (Brooke LJ, Forbes J) 26 Jan 1999.

Section 20(1) of the Consumer Protection Act 1987, being expressed in the present and not the future tense, was intended to create criminal liability for indications of price which were misleading at the time the representation was made, not representations which might become misleading at a later date.

Raymond Walker QC, Philip Colwyn-Cooper, Stephen Mason (solicitor advocates) (Mason Bond, Leeds) for the appellants; Andrew Wallace (Legal Dept, Hereford and Worcester County Council) for the respondent.

VAT

Maharani Restaurants v Comurs of Customs and Excise; QBD, Crown Office List (Turner J) 25 Jan 1999.

There was no principle to be found in r 19(3) of the Value Added Tax Tribunal Rules 1986 that an appellant was entitled to bring an appeal in the way most advantageous to himself. Justice had to be done to an appellant and to a respondent, and the court or tribunal called on in relation to a dispute between two parties should be able to do so in a way in which it could be seen to be consistent and fair to both parties. Accordingly, a decision of the VAT tribunal to hear appeals concerning two restaurants together, because three of the four individuals involved in the businesses were the same and the manner in which the tax had allegedly been evaded was similar, could not be impugned.

David Southern (Sykes Anderson) for the taxpayer; Eamon McNicholas (Solt, C&E) for the commissioners.

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A car without a Slurpee holder is not a car

I AM assured that this is a true story. A man calls up his computer helpline complaining that the cupholder on his personal computer has snapped off, and he wants to know how to get it fixed.

"Cupholder?" says the computer helpline person, puzzled. "I'm sorry, sir, but I'm confused. Did you buy this cupholder at a computer show or receive it as a special promotion?"

"No, it came as part of the standard equipment on my computer."

"But our computers don't come with cupholders."

"Well, pardon me, friend, but they do," says the man, a little hotly. "I'm looking at mine right now. You push a button on the base of the machine and it slides right out."

The man, it transpired, had been using the CD drawer in his computer to hold his coffee cup.

I bring this up here by way of introducing our topic this week: cupholders. I don't know if cupholders exist in Britain yet, but if not, trust me, they are on their way. Cupholders are taking

over the world. If you are not familiar with them, cupholders are little trays, lids or other receptacles with holes for holding cups and other drinks containers, which are found in multiple locations throughout every modern American automobile.

Often they are mounted on the backs of seats or built into armrests, but just as often they are ingeniously tucked away in places you would never think to look for a beverage storage device. Generally, in my experience, if you push an unfamiliar button anywhere in an American car, either it will activate the back window wiper, which will rub with a heavy dragging noise across the glass once every six seconds for the rest of eternity no matter what you do to try to stop it, or it will make a cupholder slide out, rise up, drop down or otherwise magically enter your life.

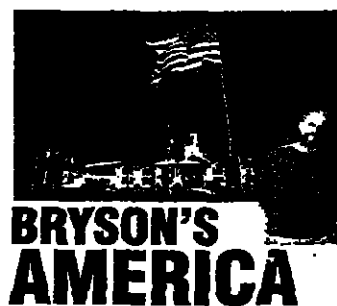
It would be almost impossible to exaggerate the importance of cupholders in American automotive circles these days. The *New York Times* recently ran a long article in which it

tested a dozen family cars. It rated each of them for ten features, such as engine size, boot space, handling, quality of suspension, and, yes, number of cupholders.

A car dealer acquaintance of ours tells us that they are one of the first things people remark on, ask about or play with when they come to look at a car. People buy cars on the basis of cupholders. Nearly all car advertisements note them prominently in the text.

Some cars, like the newest model of the Dodge Caravan, come with as many as seventeen cupholders. Seventeen! The largest Caravan holds seven passengers. You don't have to be a nuclear physicist, or even wide awake, to work out that that is 2.43 cupholders per passenger. Why you may reasonably wonder, would each passenger in a vehicle need 2.43 cupholders? Good question.

Americans, it is true, consume positively staggering volumes of fluids. One of our local petrol stations, I am told, sells a flavoured confection called a Slurpee in containers up to 80



BRYSON'S AMERICA

ounces in size. That is three English pints of sticky stuff that turns your tongue blue. But even if every member of the family had a Slurpee and a personal bottle of Milk of Magnesia for dealing with the after-effects, that would still leave three cupholders spare. There is a long tradition of endowing the interiors of American cars with lots of gadgets and comforts, and I suppose a superfluity of cupholders is just an outgrowth of that tradition.

The reason Americans want a lot of comfort in their cars is because they live in them. Almost 94 per cent of all American trips from home

involve the use of a car. (The figure in Britain is about 60 per cent, which is bad enough.) People in America don't just use their cars to get to the shops, but to get between shops. Most businesses in America have their own car parks, so someone running six errands will generally move the car six times on a single outing, even to get between two places on opposite sides of the same street.

There are 200 million cars in the United States - 40 per cent of the world's total, for about 5 per cent of its population - and an additional two million new ones hit the roads each month (though obviously many are also retired). Even so, there are about twice as many cars in America as there were twenty years ago, driving on twice as many roads, racking up about twice as many miles.

So, because Americans have a lot of cars and spend a lot of time in them, they like a lot of comforts. However, there is a limit to how many different features you can fit into a car interior. What better, then, than to festoon it with nifty

cupholders, particularly when people seem to go for them in a big way? That's my theory. What is certainly true is that not putting cupholders in a car is a serious mistake. I read a couple of years ago that Volvo had to redesign all its cars for the American market for this very reason. Volvo's engineers had foolishly thought that what buyers were looking for was a reliable engine, side-impact bars and heated seats, when in fact what they craved was little trays into which to insert their Slurpees. So a bunch of guys named Nils Nilsson and Lars Larsson were put to work designing cupholders into the system, and Volvo was thus saved from beverage ignominy, if not actual financial ruin.

Now from all the foregoing we can draw one important conclusion - that no matter how hard you try, it is not quite possible to fill a column space with a discussion just of cupholders. So let me tell you how I happen to know that those fellows at Volvo were called Nils Nilsson and Lars Larsson. Some years ago when I was in

Stockholm and had nothing better to do one evening (it was after 7pm, you see, so the city had long since turned in for the night), I passed the hours before bedtime thumbing idly through the local phone directory and tallying various names. I had heard that there were only a handful of surnames in Sweden, and this was essentially so. I counted over 2,000 each for Eriksson, Svensson, Nilsson and Larsson. There were 312 people in Stockholm named Erik Eriksson, 117 named Sven Svensson, 126 named Nils Nilsson and 269 named Lars Larsson. I wrote these names and numbers down on a piece of paper, and have been wondering all these years when I would ever find a use for it.

From this, I believe, we can draw two further conclusions. Save all scraps of paper bearing useless information, for one day you may be glad you did, and if you go to Stockholm, take drink. Notes from a Big Country by Bill Bryson (Doubleday, £16.99) can be purchased at major bookshops or by mail order on 01624 675137

The accepted view of Down's sufferers leading limited lives and dying young is being challenged by new research. By Paul Valley

Age-old syndrome of prejudice



Kieran Doherty, 22, practises on a dry ski-slope in Belfast for a skiing trip to France

Crispin Rodwell

Norman reckons there's a touch of the James Bond about him as he stands on his skis at the top of the slope. Or so he announces. "Wee-har!" he shouts as he pushes off. The cry may not be part of the original vocabulary coined for 007, but you get the idea. This was glamorous and exciting. Not the kind of adjectives usually associated with people like Norman.

For Norman has Down's Syndrome. Only a generation ago that would have led to him being shut away in an institution for his entire natural life. But, as the scene on that Belfast dry ski-slope showed last week, quite a lot has changed in a comparatively short time.

The rest of us have some way to go to catch up. Children with Down's Syndrome can be recognised by their slanted eyes, flat faces, fat little bodies and learning difficulties of such severity that they must always be treated as overgrown infants. Such is the stereotype most of us carry, and buried in it are a whole bundle of distastes and prejudices whose harshness we attempt to offset with platitudes about how such children love music and respond warmly to physical affection.

It is a view which is as out of date as it is ignorant, as will be shown later this month with the publication of two major new studies of the nation's most common learning disability. Both have taken place within Northern Ireland, the part of the UK with the highest incidence of the condition, chiefly because both Catholic and Protestant communities there have a tradition of large families which means that the number of babies born to older women - the high risk category for Down's - is much greater. All this has also produced a culture which has fostered notable advances in the treatment of the syndrome.

In one of the two studies, Dr Norman Nevin, Professor of Genetics at Belfast City Hospital, has tracked every baby born with Down's Syndrome in the province in the past 25 years to determine the changing pattern of the disorder. In the other, Dr Chris Conliffe of the Institute for Counselling and Personal Development, has surveyed the entire Down's population in the province - the first time a total survey has been done anywhere in the UK.

He discovered that the incidence is a lot higher than was previously thought, and that people with Down's are surviving much longer than was supposed - he even came across a woman aged 77 with the condition. But Northern Ireland is special in another way. Over the past two decades, a group of activist parents have established a network of support groups under the umbrella of the Northern Ireland Down's Syndrome Association which has profoundly altered the lives of children with the condition. And it has led them to achieve far more than the experts had thought possible.

Norman, and the group of other young adults on the dry ski-slope in Belfast last

week, were the pinnacle of that achievement. (They were practising for a parent-free skiing holiday in France next weekend.) He and others have recently completed their Duke of Edinburgh gold award, which involved four days unaccompanied orienteering and survival in a German forest. At home, many now in their twenties have found jobs and are preparing to leave home for semi-independent housing schemes. One has passed a driving test and drives her own car.

It is all a long way from how people with Down's Syndrome have been viewed in the past. The condition was first identified in 1866 by Dr John Langdon Down, a supporter of the eugenics movement which saw mental and physical handicaps as a manifestation of degeneracy - a philosophy which led eventually to the entire Down's Syndrome population of Germany being experimented on and exterminated in the Nazi Holocaust. And if more modern reactions were less extreme, there was until as recently as 20 years ago a routine recommendation in this country that such children be placed for life in an institution.

A number of factors have changed that. Central to them, according to Dr Conliffe,

'Now that Down's is no longer a disease of early death, we need to think how we provide for this ageing population'

has been the insistence by families that they will look after their Down's children at home. This has not just provided the children with more intensive stimulation. It has also created a network of vocal advocates who continually challenge the medical and education systems.

Thirty years ago, half of Down's children died before the age of five; today, thanks to advances in surgery on the heart and bowel disorders which affect them, 80 per cent survive to 30 and beyond, and most have a life expectancy of over 50. At home, early physiotherapy and speech therapy has been evolved. In education, Down's children have been discovered to have better visual than auditory skills and their IQ can virtually double when measured this way. As a result, their traditional special schools have been augmented, thanks to parental pressure, by the option of integrating them into mainstream schools.

Despite all this, the stereotypes are slow to change. "I've always tried to educate the general public but I don't think I'm winning," sighed Elizabeth Doherty as she watched her son, Kieran, 23, follow Norman down the dry ski-slope. "Their looks are a barrier they find hard to get over," she said.

Kieran has an NVQ in Retailing and has just had a job interview on the open job

market. But perhaps the most interesting finding of this month's reports are the unexplained clusters of babies born with Down's in particular areas at particular times. "I'm becoming more and more convinced that external factors might play a part," said Professor Nevin. "Down's Syndrome is caused by an additional chromosome and we know that the chances of this increase with the mother's age. But there could also be an environmental influence. We have looked at a number of things - diet, drugs, chemicals. There could well be some other factor which acts on the eggs of old mothers and triggers it off."

The Post Office has now provided him with post-code computer software to plot his 25 years of figures on a map. "We will look for things like whether there is clustering around land-fill sites, for example," he said. "Clusters may give a clue, though there are so many variables that finding something can be down to luck."

The research could provide spin-offs for the rest of the population. People with Down's Syndrome undergo an acceleration in the process of ageing. By the age of 35, they have undergone the brain changes the rest of the population suffer in old age. Many also develop early Alzheimer's Disease. "If the molecular geneticists can find out what accelerates ageing in Down's," said Professor Nevin, who is also the chair of UK Gene Therapy Advisory Committee, "then we may be able to find ways to retard the development of Alzheimer's for the entire population."

In the meantime, it throws up other issues. "Now this is no longer a disease where you expect early death, we need to think of how we provide for this ageing population," said Dr Conliffe, whose report will propose that senior citizenship begins at the age of 40 for people with Down's. It will also require a reappraisal among social service planners who have hitherto seriously underestimated the number of older people with the condition.

"There is no social service provision to help those who are over 20," Dr Conliffe said. "They leave their peers behind when they leave school so there are social issues. Then their health needs to be looked at with greater intensity, as does their greater incidence of depression. And there is a double jeopardy in the later years - as well as accelerated ageing they have to deal with the fact that their careers are getting old too."

Meanwhile, those carers in the Down's Syndrome Association are finding new ways of living with the daily reality of the condition. They provide courses in numeracy and money management alongside those in keep-fit, bowling, swimming, gymnastics, horse-riding and five-a-side football. They also do line-dancing and drama - in which another of the skiers, Mark, does a mean Elvis impersonation.

"He has a much better social life than I do," said his mother, Elizabeth Robinson, as she watched him take off his ski-boots. She was smiling. And there was, in her words, not an iota of complaint.

CLASSIFIED

Legal Notices

Not 00555 of 1999
In the High Court of Justice
Chancery Division
Companies Court in the
Matter of
AARONITE LIMITED
and in the Matter of the
Companies Act 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 27th January 1999 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the appointment of the Liquidator of the above-named Company by the Court.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 90 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named Company will be held at 11.30 am on 26th February 1999 at 11th day of February 1999 at 2.00 pm, 2.30 pm, 3.00 pm, 3.30 pm and 4.00 pm respectively, for the purposes mentioned in Sections 90 to 101 of the Insolvency Act 1986.

NOTICE IS ALSO HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 90(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a list of the names and addresses of the companies and individuals who are creditors of the above-named Company, and of the names and addresses of the persons who are creditors of the above-named Company, is available for inspection, free of charge, at 11th day of February 1999 at 2.00 pm, 2.30 pm, 3.00 pm, 3.30 pm and 4.00 pm respectively, for the purposes mentioned in Sections 90 to 101 of the Insolvency Act 1986.

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in this section please call Siobhan McCaul on 0171 293 2347.

Richard without a cause

Continued from page 1
marrying kind, Richard? At this, he gives my nose a playful tweak - argh! - and says: "Don't be a naughty little sausage." I don't know why he's being so coy. As far as I can work out, nothing deeply sinister or Tantric has ever gone on.

He was married, briefly, in his twenties. He then had a relationship with a journalist which led to a son, James, now 11. James lives in London with his mother, and Richard sees him regularly. Do you get on? "Don't be a naughty little sausage!"

He has a long-term girlfriend, Kathryn Apanowicz, the actress who played Dirty Den's mistress, Mags, in *EastEnders*, and

is now a Radio Leeds presenter, but they don't live together. Why? "You ARE A NAUGHTY LITTLE SAUSAGE!"

I think, possibly, Richard doesn't need to live with anyone. He is always around to laugh at his own jokes. And as they come off the top of his head, it's not like he's ever heard them before. I don't mean this unkindly. I'm not sure how else I mean it, but I do know I don't mean it as that.

Anyway, he has to go. He's a governor at his old school, and there is a meeting there at 5pm. We part with a lot of big hugs and promises to meet for a drink when he's next in London. I get the train home.

"Oh, so you're back then," chorus my partner and son, enthusiastically. Watch it, I tell them, or I'll tell you a joke about a corduroy pillow. Then you'll be sorry.

There are two messages from Richard awaiting me. One goes: "Hope you got back all right." The other goes: "Hope you got back all right." I phone him to reassure him I got back all right. "Are you having a Ryvita?" I ask when he picks up the phone. "I've just finished the pack!" he exclaims. "I'm not sure what to do now. Should I have a banana, do you think?" As I said, you can't set out to be Richard Whiteley. You just are.

Richard Whiteley, Bloomsbury Theatre, London WC1. 18, 19, 20 Feb (0171-388 8822)

'We didn't abuse our child'

FAMILY AFFAIR

Ian Brown, 38, is an independent television producer. Riach Edwards Brown was a TV researcher before she gave birth to Riordan in February 1995. They live with their son, who is now four, in south London

Riach had lost five babies, so when I became pregnant for the sixth time, I moved into hospital for 14 weeks hoping not to lose the baby. Riordan was born six weeks premature. He was in intensive care and special care but the doctors discharged him at 10 days. They were happy with him, and so was I. However, when I got home, my brother asked if I had noticed Riordan's head was big and how he seemed to vomit a lot. At his six-week check-up, the GP asked us to come back in a week's time to check his head size. In one week his head had grown one centimetre. The GP asked us to return to the hospital at 10am on the following day. We were kept waiting six hours without any treatment and had to return the following day. Finally, we saw a consultant who told us that Riordan's notes had vanished but that Riordan had suffered a brain bleed commonly associated with premature babies - a sub-arachnoid. As we were leaving, she said: "By the way, have you ever dropped him?" A week later, Riordan collapsed and I took him to casualty. They asked me to stay in for observation with Riordan. Three days later, they insisted that they see Ian and me together. I thought: "Oh my God, this is a brain tumour." The consultant said: "We've got good news and bad news." I was convinced the bad news would be that he had a brain tumour. She said: "We've had to contact social services, which is standard procedure."

I was waiting for the sledgehammer to fall, unaware that it had arrived. The consultant had now changed the brain bleed to a subdural which she said could only come by trauma and force. I still wasn't registering. Ian said: "Do you mean like a boxer's punch?" She replied: "Yes, or Riordan being shaken and swung around by the ankles up against a hard surface." I could still hear what she was saying but it was as if it didn't apply to us. It was only later when I said I was going home that the social worker said: "If you make any attempt to remove Riordan from the ward, the police will be contacted." I thought: "Oh my God, they think I've done it."

Riordan was X-rayed and the social worker asked me: "Where did you learn to speak English so well, and where were you educated?" I



Riach and Ian with their son, Riordan. 'Sometimes I look at him,' she says, 'and think: whose child is he? The state's or mine?'

Kalpesh Lathigra

immediately thought of how many black male friends have told me that when they see a police car coming towards them, they start running. I felt I was in a goldfish bowl and I was screaming my heart out but no one could hear. The social worker said: "If you had a reason for Riordan's injury, it would go much easier for you." But this was something my family and friends used to joke about. I was so careful with Riordan. I treated him like my china doll. I asked them about Riordan's medical notes but we were told they were missing. We thought: "Dear God, without medical notes, how the hell will we prove our innocence?"

Ian and I were best friends before we became a couple, and that will always be the fabric of our relationship. When we had to watch one

of our daughters die, we had turned to each other. I said to Ian: "We are going to lose Riordan." I was full of fear and desperation, and nobody was listening. Ian was numb and not saying much. The following day, at a meeting with social workers, we were told that Riordan would be taken from us. I left the room because I was determined that I would not collapse in front of the social workers.

I was in the call box talking to my GP just outside the ward, when a young doctor came up to me and put these notes into my arms. She kept on walking - she didn't want to be involved - but she said: "Look at the head's circumference at birth." I looked and Riordan's notes showed that his head was 32cm at birth. At 10 days it was 35.8cm. A growth of almost 4cm in 10 days. The notes

showed categorically that his head had exploded in 10 days. I thought: "We are off the hook."

To this day we don't know what caused the bleeding or what the future holds for Riordan. Eventually, after two months of dragging their heels, we were allowed to attempt to get back to old life. But we were left with the legacy of trying to work through a child protection procedure. We had to pick up the pieces. We wanted to become a family on steady ground again, but we couldn't do that. I was totally obsessed with Riordan and frightened of him hurting himself. Meanwhile, Ian and I were trying to understand what we'd been through.

I feel very hurt for being falsely accused, when all I was trying to do was to be a loving parent and find out what was wrong with my child.

I feel that I have been robbed of what any mother takes for granted. Whenever Riordan gets a bruise, I think: "Oh my god, what do people think?" Ian and I conceived Riordan; he is our flesh and blood, but he will remain on the state files until he's 18. Sometimes I look at him and think whose child is he? The state's or mine?

Ian When the hospital accused us of shaking Riordan, we were at the point when we just wanted to get on with our lives. Like many people who've been accused of things they didn't do, I felt disbelief. It all seemed ludicrous. When we went into the final meeting with the two social workers, we felt sense

would prevail. When they said Riordan was going into care, Riach walked out. I am English through and through and I felt I had to maintain cool and calm, and try and reason with these people.

That was breaking point: it was about as traumatic a thing for a couple to go through. We were told that if we left with Riordan we'd be arrested, which was the beginning of 12 days of torture. We'd wake in the morning stinking of the kind of sweat that comes through fear and feeling sick. Riach's milk dried up. Riordan started pulling out his hair in distress. Riach was fuelled by pure anger and rage, but she remained utterly determined.

Women get angry, but men are driven to something beyond anger which is disabling. Riach had the gut feeling that somewhere within those

notes was the answer. A doctor decided that the notes which had gone missing should be found again. We were just numb. After that, we were meant to go home and lead a normal life but we were in a daze. The rage that had fuelled Riach's fight-back had no means of expression. We were close to being wiped out as a family. Riach and I were, and are, best friends, and we tried to carry on communicating.

Today, we've both changed. It's killed any spontaneous sense of joy I had. Many couples in our situation split up, some people attempt suicide; their lives are completely destroyed. I want to forget the whole damn thing, but because of the moral panic surrounding child abuse our lives will never be the same again.

INTERVIEWS BY EMMA COOK

No longer a prisoner of paradise

Twenty years after Jonestown, a survivor speaks out. By Andrew Gumbel

When Deborah Layton followed the Reverend Jim Jones out to his jungle community in Guyana, she fervently hoped it would be "everything I'd ever dreamed of". What she found was a kind of hell on earth.

The man she had looked up to as a role model and surrogate father became increasingly frightening to her as he ran Jonestown, his little kingdom, with increasing brutality and paranoia. Layton had been part of the People's Temple for seven years and was one of Jones's most trusted confidantes. But the relentless misery of Jonestown, the system of thought control, the beatings and the rehearsals for mass suicide slowly hardened her resolve to get out. In May 1978, with a decision that was to save as well as change her tormented life, she did just that.

Taking advantage of a mission to Georgetown, the Guyanese capital, she managed to escape the attentions of her fellow sect members just long enough to secure herself an emergency passport and arrange her air passage out. As she recounts in grimly compulsive detail in her memoir *Seductive Poison*, just published here, her escape came perilously close to failure as she shuttled between the US Consulate, the PanAm office, a Georgetown hotel and the airport over a nail-biting 24 hours. Once safely back in the US, she came face to face with the

heavy consequences of her defection. She left her cancer-ridden mother behind in Jonestown and never saw or spoke to her again. She failed to make contact with her brother Larry, a fellow Temple member, before he was ordered to Jonestown from San Francisco - effectively consigning to him the fate that would have awaited her had she stayed.

Perhaps most devastatingly, her escape became one of the links in the deadly chain that caused the entire community of Jonestown - 913 men, women and children - to commit mass suicide six months later. Her sworn testimony about conditions in the jungle prompted Leo Ryan, a Californian congressman, to investigate the sect and visit Jonestown; Ryan's effort to bring 20 "defectors" home with him led Jim Jones to order his security guards to open fire on the departing delegation, killing Ryan and four others; their deaths, in turn, precipitated the final, terrible order to the assembled People's Temple members to embrace death with cyanide-laced Flavorade. Lisa Layton, Debbie's mother, was not among the suicide victims - she had died, in terrible agony, a week before (Jim Jones begged the community's painkiller supply for himself. Larry, meanwhile, was one of the gunmen who ambushed Congressman Ryan's party. Although he did not kill anyone, he was subsequently extradited to the US to serve a life sentence in prison.

Debbie Layton is astound-



Debbie Layton lived to tell her tale. Robert Gumpert

ingly, refreshingly sane. For 17 years, before she quit to write her book, she worked as a financial trader in San Francisco, building up a network of new friends and renewing ties to her father and two older siblings. She now has a 13-year-old daughter, a steady partner and a beautiful, welcoming home in Piedmont on the east side of San Francisco Bay.

Not only has she come to terms with the terrible legacy of the People's Temple and her place within it, but she has written about her experiences with a searing honesty. She describes the disconcertingly plausible way in which a young girl from a well-educated background could come to be sucked into the universe of a monomaniac and charlatan like Jim Jones. "It's all about finding a niche for yourself in a world where everything is black and white," she says. "Where what the leader says is good

and everything else is bad. It's much simpler to see the world that way. By the time you figure out what's wrong it's often too late to extricate yourself." *Seductive Poison* describes the allure of Jim Jones when he was setting up in northern California in the early 1970s and traces his rise to political respectability the became so thick with the mayor of San Francisco, George Moscone, that he was appointed head of the city Housing Commission.

It describes the mental games Jones played to explain away the mounting suspicions surrounding his activities and shows how hundreds of people were deceived into thinking that an almost inaccessible corner of the Guyanese jungle would be a little paradise. But behind Layton's story lies another, equally compelling one: the story of how she gathered the strength to write the book in the first place. For years, all she craved was anonymity.

After the initial blaze of publicity, she retreated into her new life, avoiding all reference to the past. "It was so painful when it came to that point in a relationship where I needed to say 'I'm not who you think I am,'" she recounted. "But almost nobody walked away."

When her daughter Lauren was born, she was anxious to protect her from the truth. Once, when a documentary on Jonestown was on TV, Lauren was with her father and exclaimed: "Daddy, that looked like Mummy!" Her father hastily changed channels. But it

was Lauren, with her ever more persistent questions, that caused Layton to address the past. Another turning point was the Branch Davidian sect siege in Waco, Texas, in 1994: she realised that if survivors like her did not speak up and try to explain the mindset of sect members, further calamities could easily occur. "I heard about Waco while driving across the Bay Bridge and I remember thinking that if the car flipped over and I died there and then, I would be remembered only as an escapee from Jonestown," she said. "The book became an attempt to lend dignity to my experience."

Writing the book was a painful, two-year experience and even when it was finished, anxiety did not subside. "I was afraid people would find me truly vile," she said.

In the event, the book received glowing reviews praising not only Layton's courage but also her gift for narrative - reviews that she read not so much with excitement as relief. The relief was evidently felt by other Jonestown survivors, some of whom contacted Layton and found strength to confront their own demons. But much residual pain remains.

Larry Layton has little prospect of parole, and their father is critically ill. "He cried through every chapter of my book," Debbie said. "He is haunted by what happened, why a man he never met should try to ruin him. Ultimately there is no answer to the question, for him or anyone else."

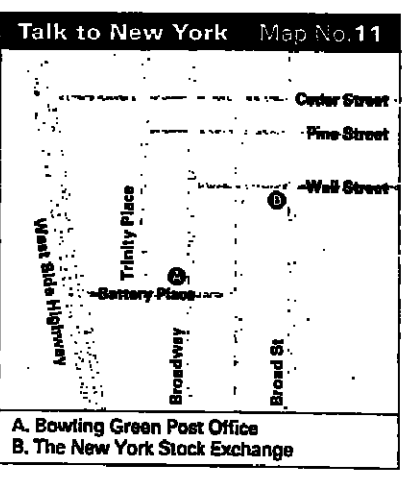


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THE INDEPENDENT

I don't do opera – unless it's theatre

Peter Stein is one of the world's greatest theatre directors and tonight his eagerly awaited *Peter Grimes* opens in Cardiff. He tells Mark Pappenheim why this is only his seventh opera

For somebody directing *Peter Grimes*, Peter Stein could hardly make a better entrance. Wind-blown and wild-haired, dressed all in black, his face dripping rain from the gale blowing across the bay, Germany's foremost theatre director huddles in like a Suffolk fisherman seeking shelter from the storm. But even an avowed realist can have too much reality, I suppose. "God, I hate this weather!" he snarls, mopping his face.

Although, when he first came to work in Wales, Stein jokingly admits he had "problems even spelling Cardiff", you'd have thought he'd have got used to the weather by now. *Grimes* is, after all, his fourth production for Welsh National Opera in 13 years, and he's only ever done seven operas in his entire 35-year career. "You know, I'm a straight theatre director," he insists first thing, "and I want to be considered as this, not as an opera director. Opera is, for me, a kind of tourism."

And the reason he chooses to spend most of his "holidays" in Wales is that WNO offers the perfect package: choice of repertoire, extended rehearsal periods (seven weeks for *Grimes*); the final say in the casting; above all, "a team of people who do what they do, because they want to do it; who see the work, not as a *devoir*, a duty, or only to earn money – because, believe me, to earn money in this company is very hard – but as a chance to... explore."

Initially, though, it took much wooing by WNO's then managing director, Brian McMaster (now of the Edinburgh Festival), to coax Stein to Cardiff at all. It wasn't just that, as artistic director (1970-85) of the Schaubühne, Berlin's acclaimed theatre collective, Stein had his pick of projects the world over; never mind Wales. It was more that he had already washed his hands of opera twice over: once as a spectator, then as a director. As a child growing up in wartime Berlin, his earliest theatrical experiences were all of going to the opera: "First *Peter's Moon Voyage* – 'Little Peter's Moon Voyage' – when I was three, in 1940, just before the bombing started. Then Humperdinck's *Hänsel und Gretel* – this, it's clear, is what a well-educated young boy has to hear! Then *Freischütz*. Then *Aida*."

He went on going during his teens in Frankfurt, during his student years in Mu-

nich. But then a fat lady sang, and it was all over between him and the opera. "I remember very well, it was after a performance of Strauss's *Elektra*, with Astrid Varnay, that I decided: 'Basta! I don't go to opera any more.' She was too old, too fat by then. I could no longer stand the *Dis-krepanz* between the music and what was happening on stage, where a fat woman of about 58 years fakes to be a young girl and to make a dance in which she cannot move. Come on, I said, I can buy a record for the same price as a ticket, and listen at home. And after that I never came back to opera – until I was asked to direct it. So I was very strict when I was younger," he chuckles. "Too strict. Now I am ready

'He had already washed his hands of opera twice over, first as a spectator, then as a director'

to do everything... Anything! Just call!"

The call, when it first came though, was to direct a complete *Ring*, with Solti, at the Paris Opéra. But the cycle was cut short after *Rheingold* (in 1976), when Stein pulled out, frustrated that he had to rehearse with understudies – "the big stars weren't due in until the dress rehearsal! For an opera director, it's OK maybe, but, for a theatre director, it's appalling." No wonder it took a decade for him to be lured back to opera. And when he was, it wasn't solely McMaster's promise of ideal rehearsal conditions that won him over ("with all the singers always there, so together we can explore something, work something out"), but the piece on offer: Verdi's *Otello*.

For the other lesson he'd learnt in Paris was that he could only care for operas where the text itself invited the involvement of a "straight theatre man". And, heresy though it may be to Wagnerites, he felt this just wasn't true of *The Ring*. "I loved the music. Or, let's say, I found it interesting – sometimes crazy, sometimes kitsch, always powerful. But the libretto! Wagner's words are so lousy that, if I read or hear them without the music, I simply have to laugh!" And he does. "A very Homeric laugh", if he says so himself.

Otello clearly is something else. Not just

because its text is taken from Shakespeare, but because it is, says Stein, "a programmatic piece, where, after a pause of 10 years, Verdi came back to opera as an old man with the explicit intention of introducing theatre into opera. He knew it was a paradox – it doesn't work 100 per cent – but he wanted it, absolutely, and therefore he chose Shakespeare as the icon, the essence, of theatre. And indeed he succeeded quite well." Though not as well, he feels, as in *Fulgata*, Verdi's next and final opera (and Stein's second for WNO), "where, if you listen on CD, it is only 60 per cent as much fun as when you see it on stage. Unlike *Nabucco*, say, which is much better to hear than to see."

So Stein now restricts himself to pieces where a "straight theatre man" can add his 40 per cent, where, as he modestly hopes, "at the end the singers say: 'Oh, yes, you helped us by your staging.' For that's his aim – "to help the singers sing better and to help the audience listen better. This more and more becomes my joy, to make the staging work, so you can even understand the structure of the score." Anyone who saw his 1988 *Fulgata*, for example, will recall how simply, yet skilfully, he choreographed that final, fun-fuelled fugue so as to articulate each bubbling, bobbing, jostling vocal strand.

The search for suitably theatrical scores brought him in 1992 to Debussy's *Pelléas*, a staging that was planned to mark Stein's operatic comeback in Paris but was ditched in the wake of Barenboim's dismissal from the Bastille, and ended up at WNO on the rebound, though with Pierre Boulez still on board. "I think it was really a gift from Mr Boulez to do the production here," says Stein. The willingness of the great composer-conductor to accompany Stein's staging on tour, appearing in the pit on two Thursday evenings in Bristol, Birmingham and Southampton, represented a double coup for the Cardiff company. The two collaborated again on Schönberg's *Moses und Aron* in Amsterdam in 1995, since when Stein's only other opera has been Wozzeck in Salzburg two years ago.

Given the debt Britten's opera so obviously owes to Berg's, *Grimes* seems a logical follow-up, though Stein insists it's coincidental. He was originally asked to do the piece in Vienna, but turned it down, partly as the casting was already done (and he couldn't see how it could work with the



Now Peter Stein restricts himself to operas where a 'straight theatre man' can add his 40 per cent Brian Tarr

given tenor), partly as he felt he could only do *Grimes* properly with English-speaking singers – "people who know exactly, also in a little bit an ironic way, what it is about, this weather and this rain, and this special relationship to nature and the sea, and the fighting with that, and so on." That said, he was shocked to find "how strangely English singers behave when they sing their own language, trying to enoble it with a kind of oratorical behaviour, so that it becomes a little bit pompous, as if it would be an oratorio or I don't know what." The "plum in the mouth" style jars all the more in a work where, even if the text is sometimes overflowing and poetic, "the themes are very direct and concrete,

and it's about the lives of ordinary people – fishermen, not Kings and Queens."

What gives the work its "special fascination", though, is how precisely rooted it is in the soil and sea of Aldeburgh, the Suffolk fishing village where Crabbe's original poem is set, where Britten settled and founded his festival. As a self-confessed provincial ("Germany is all made up of provinces, they have no capital"), Stein particularly admires the way it draws the universal from the provincial, how one tiny dot on the map can harbour a drama of global import.

Naturally, he visited Aldeburgh, but as for re-creating it on stage, forget it. "Realism in theatre is very difficult nowadays,"

he observes, "when you can push a button, puff, and have virtual reality in your own home." The answer is to isolate elements that really count – in *Grimes*'s case, Aldeburgh's role as a fishing community. "So the only real things on board – sorry, on stage! – are the boats... they are made in Aldeburgh, and they are my joy!"

Peter Grimes: New Theatre, Cardiff (01222 878899), 15, 20, 24 Feb (live on Radio 3); Apollo, Oxford (01865 244544), 2, 5 March; Hippodrome, Birmingham (0121 622 7486), 23, 26 March; Sadler's Wells, London (0171 863 8000), 30 March, 3 April; Empire, Liverpool (0151 709 1555), 6, 9 April; Grand, Swansea (01792 475151), 13, 17 April

Wisdom through compassion

IT MAY come to be known as the Protestant *Parsifal*; a grey day for the Grail. But Nikolaus Lehnhoff's provocative, intelligent, and finally very moving production of Wagner's perplexing masterpiece dares to ask questions for which there are no easy answers. In a sense, it is the agnostic *Parsifal*. It wants to believe, but it needs to know.

This, says Lehnhoff, is an opera about loss of faith, loss of direction, loss of humanity. Loss. The world into which it plunges us is a world in decline, a world so preoccupied with the trappings of Christianity – the symbols, the rituals, the piety that means everything and nothing – that it has forgotten the true meaning of the word. Man's inhumanity to man has come full circle. Our evolution has hit the buffers. It's the end of the line.

Indeed it is. In the final act of the opera, Lehnhoff's set designer, Raimund Bauer, presents the metaphor literally: a length of rail-track going nowhere or somewhere, depending upon which way you look at it. Salvation railroad. It's the life-

OPERA

PARSIFAL
ENO COLISEUM
LONDON

line, if you like, to new beginnings. The way in, and the way out. It's the track along which Parsifal enters a warrior – a black samurai (a marvellous evocation from costume designer Andrea Schmidt-Fittler) – and exits a redeemer, leading the way for all those who would follow.

So there is hope in Lehnhoff's wilderness. In the beginning, and in the end, time and place are indeterminate. Different cultures, east and west, different periods, are suggested in the costume designs. The knights in act one hail from medieval times, in act three they are ghosts of the Great War, gas masks pushed back over their heads in terrible grimaces. But the sanctuary of the Grail is a constant, the steep incline of its grey walls suggesting a civilisation thrown off its axis. A huge rock – the rock of ages – has rup-

tured its fortification from the outside world, and through that rupture (which we might also see as a metaphor for Amfortas's wound, the wound of all humanity) the wild and wilful figure of Parsifal first bursts like a force of nature.

For once he is, in every sense, the primitive. The surprise of his first entrance is but one of several tiny revelations that Lehnhoff brings to his reading of the text. Another is the clear parallel he makes between the knights and their female counterparts, the flower maidens, in act two. Sex and violence as powerful motivators in the cycle of human folly. Lehnhoff and his designer have us view the opening of this second act through a gauze bearing the pelvic region of a female skeleton, and, more than any production I have seen of it, makes the physicality really tell. Slender arms become a myriad stigmas. Kundry sheds costumes like petals.

Lehnhoff is an accomplished practitioner. His stage compositions, his eye for movement, his respect for stillness and space is

really expressive. Not all the big moments here quite measured up to the magnificence of the musical realisation: the walk "through time and space" to the Grail sanctuary, the unveiling of the Grail itself were rather too Protestant. But the luminosity and splendour of the sound Mark Elder achieved with the English National Opera Orchestra and Chorus in these moments (extra brass summoning from the rear of the theatre, angelic voices from on high) truly opened up the imagination. Like all great readings of this music, this one created its own time and space.

A fine cast inhabited it. Gwyneth Howell's Gurnemanz may now lack that last degree of vocal authority, but he weighs his words and wears his compassion with great dignity. Jonathan Summers' Amfortas wears his anguish wearily, perhaps too wearily, but the pain is heartfelt. To Kim Begley (Parsifal) I owe an apology for once suggesting that he was not the stuff of which Helden-tenors are made. The greatly improved middle-voice is now the



Sex and violence: Act two's flower maidens parallel the knights of act one Laurie Lewis

source and support for some really beautiful singing. And Kathryn Harries is a simply electrifying Kundry. From fallen angel her crash-landing makes for a spectacular entrance) to fragrant seductress, she

affects amazing transformations in her voice. Almost as amazing as Wagner's in the orchestra.

But above all, you come away from this *Parsifal* with an indelible sense of its "wisdom through com-

passion". Lehnhoff's painterly images of Gurnemanz, and later Parsifal, cradling Amfortas, are not easily forgotten. They are the most eloquent of endgames.

EDWARD SECKERSON

Paradise lost in rural west Wales

THEATRE

HOSTS OF REBECCA
CLWYD THEATRE
CYMRU

ONE OF the features of Terry Hands' successful first season as artistic director at Clwyd Theatre last year was Tim Baker's *The Rape of the Fair Country*, an adaptation of Alexander Cordell's novel.

The Rape of the Fair Country's virtues as a headline production for this Welsh theatre were immediately obvious, and it comes as no surprise that Baker and his writer, Manon Eames, have now followed that production with the next work in Cordell's trilogy.

Cordell's brand of popular historical novel offers family saga interacting melodramatically with momentous public events in ways that are powerfully sentimental and couched with an indignation salted with

nationalism. Like its predecessor, *Hosts of Rebecca* is enraged by the 19th-century degradation of the land and culture of Wales by the effects of rapacious industry and heedless colonialism.

If he does beg the historian Gwyn A. Williams' famously awkward question "When Was Wales?", Cordell presents a broadbrush history recognisable to industrial and rural, Welsh and English-speaking, heartland and border – this theatre's wide and complex constituency.

Hosts of Rebecca continues the story of the Mortimer family as they move from the inferno of the iron-works at Monmouth to the supposed paradise of rural west Wales.

With the patriarch Dada and Morfydd's husband both dead, and Iestyn transported to Botany Bay penal colony in Australia for his part in the Chartist protest, it is a family of women – save for the 14-year-old Jethro (Kai Owen), who becomes the central character.

But Granter Zephaniah's old farm can no longer yield a living, and Jethro and Morfydd are both forced into the local mine. Also misery and starvation has fuelled the "Rebecca Riots", a guerrilla war aimed mainly at the smashing of the

hated toll-gates and conducted by nocturnal, wraith-like bands that are dressed as women.

There are many strands running here, and Eames and Baker have difficulty making one thread. First there is the representation of social conditions, best evoked in designer Mark Bailey's fearful picture of the mine ladders reaching up and out of sight. (None the less – redoubtable as Vivien Parry's Morfydd is – it's hardly credible she would come home after 10 hours in a 2ft coal seam as though from a counter at Laura Ashley.)

There is also the developing intensity of Jethro's love for Mari, his brother Iestyn's faithful wife – beautifully played by Siwan Morris. This in turn is

torqued by the revelation that Mari is the child of Zephaniah's tragic liaison with the daughter of Jethro.

Sion Probert fixes this vivid tale, but, in this occasionally overcooked production, he is compelled to shake his Old Testament locks too many times, both in its repetition and in prophesying that the mark of Cain is upon the intemperate Mortymers. This comes true in Jethro's involvement with the Rebeccas, but by the time he kills a dragon its dramatic significance is lost in the regular segmentation of the action.

Although the teeming character of the novel has not been sufficiently filtered to provide a pure enough dramatic line, this is a gutsy, committed show, es-

pecially in the singing and ensemble work.

JEFFREY WAINWRIGHT

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NETWORK

An off year for 'offline'

THE GIANTS of the gaming industry seemed strangely quiet at Milia 99 in Cannes last week, but the collective of UK artists who make up AudioRom had reason to celebrate, following up last year's Bafta award with a Milia D'Or for their Shift Control CD-Rom.

For the first time at the Milia D'Or ceremony, CD-Roms, websites and games were judged together. It was an ominous sign for the "offline" business. In the words of one of the judging panel, journalist Denise Caruso, the offline industry and the Internet have increasingly similar concerns; interactivity, graphics and content. The problem is that the Internet is a cheaper platform and much of what could only be delivered by CD-Rom is now possible over the Net.

And if location is a good barometer, the games industry certainly lost out at Milia, with a small site outside the main hall. It's not all doom and gloom, however. Sega's Dreamcast project, which launches in the UK this year, made a strong impression. Its key title was designed by the legendary Yu Suzuki, who has come out of retirement to create Shenmue. The gameplay is still not clear, but the realistic detail, and claims of a 4D game with its own dynamic time and environment systems, could boost this industry.

One of the online innovations doing its best to steal the show was at the Intel stand, where you could get sneak previews of the software houses that are writing new titles for the forthcoming Pentium III processor. According to Intel's Tim Keating, there has been a very fast take-up by software houses keen to exploit PIII's enhanced multimedia capabilities. Applications that use video and audio streaming, and the gaming industry, will benefit most. Unsurprisingly, Intel reps were keen to downplay the "Big Brother Inside" technology with the

Pentium III, which makes it possible to identify a specific machine via an ID number on every chip. Intel has been accused of encroaching on personal privacy, and has now announced that it will ship PIII's with the ID function turned off.

One of the highlights was at the New Talent Pavilion, which showcased the most creative sites and games. But the battle cry at Milia 99 was for multimedia to be granted equal status with the traditional media. After all, the industry has not only engaged the minds of children, but their parents and grandparents as well.

JENNIFER RODGER

Milia D'Or Awards
Action Games: *Wargasm* (CD-Rom) Infogrames/Digital Image Design
UK/France: Adventure/Roleplaying games: *Zelda The Ocarina Of Time* (Nintendo 64)
France/Japan: Strategy Games: *Populous III: The Beginning* (CD-Rom) Electronic Arts/Bullfrog
France/US/UK: Simulation/Sports Games: *Gran Turismo* (Playstation) Sony Computer Entertainment
Europe/Japan: Family Entertainment-Lesure: *Shift Control Interactive Music* (CD-Rom) AudioRom UK
Children's Education: *Midnight Play* (CD-Rom) NHK Educational Corporation
Japan/Tivola Verlag GMBH, Germany, Reference & General Culture: *Le plus beau musée du monde* (CD-Rom) Gallimard Multimedia/France Telecom Multimedia/Gyozo Media
Education & Training: *Les Cybersessions Médicales* (www.cybersessions.com)
Concepts Technologies Canada: Interactive Information: CNN Interactive (www.cnn.com)

Grand Prizes
Most Impressive Game Play: *Zelda The Ocarina Of Time*; Excellence in Content: *Le plus beau musée du monde*; Most Innovative Use of Real Time Interactivity: *Les Cybersessions Médicales*; Hottest Multiplayer Game: *Starcraft TM* (CD Rom) Havas Interactive Inc/Blizzard Entertainment
France/US: People's Choice Award: *Gran Turismo*

Success at last for a smart set of wheels

An award-winning wheelchair design has had many problems getting into production, but now, with a little help from their friends, the makers are ready to roll. By Anna Sommerville

In 1998, an offshoot of the University of Edinburgh won a prestigious education technology award, presented by David Blunkett, for its Smart Wheelchair. One judge described it as "an example of a product leaping beyond the limits of what has previously been thought possible". The award marked the culmination of 10 years' research, and would have appeared to have guaranteed the success of a product that transformed the lives of the most severely disabled. But it turned out that the struggle had only just begun.

Many people who need a powered wheelchair are turned down by the NHS if they can't display the necessary skills to drive it. There are sound reasons for this, mainly the safety of users themselves and those around them. However, the Smart Wheelchair, with its combination of switches, bumpers, scanners, sensors and line-following tools, bridged that gap. In about 30 per cent of cases, users build up their skills to the point that they can be issued with a standard powered wheelchair.

The Smart Chair was developed by the Communication Aids for Language Learning (Call) Centre at the University of Edinburgh. It is designed to allow less able drivers to achieve some independent mobility. Paul Nisbet, of the Call Centre, stresses that it is not a mobile robot - the aim is to maximise users' skills, not to have the chair take over.

The unit was working with children who had severe disabilities and learning difficulties. It had developed switches - to control various devices, such as communication aids, computers and toys. "This is all fine, but not hugely exciting," says Nisbet. "We thought it would be good if you could plug a switch into something that would drive around a bit."

A prototype was built in 1987. With funding from the Scottish Office, the Call Centre built 12 chairs to be road-tested within schools. Nisbet is adamant that this is the best way to bring a product to fruition. He says that the European Union pumps huge amounts of money into projects to develop non-contact, obstacle detection vehicles, but that nothing commercial comes out of them because, invariably, they have spent 18 to 21 months of a two-year project on development, made one and tested it in a lab.

The schools' input was invaluable. It is a long process from delivering the chair to maximising users' skills on it. First, the teacher will sit in the chair to show the child that it is safe and then he or she will sit in the chair with the child and so on. The bumpers have various settings: stop on collision; stop and back off after a collision and turn after collision. The chair can be driven by switches, joysticks, a laptop or scanner. With the latter, users have the option of clicking on a switch until the direction is shown in lights, or can be offered a choice of left or right. Optical sensors on the chair allow the use



Tony Carver had never moved on his own before he took control of his Smart wheelchair

Anna Sommerville

of a line-following tool. Reflective tape is laid out on the floor and the chair follows it automatically. This is particularly useful for navigating doorways. The chair reports back at all times via a speech synthesiser. This is important to let the user know why an action has been taken. For example, after a collision it may say: "Oops I have hit something. I will back off and try turning."

The Call Centre later joined forces with QED, a wheelchair manufacturer based in Fareham, Hampshire, to go into commercial production. The orders were coming in, but the horizon was soon to darken. On 15 July 1997, an EU directive on the use of medical devices came into force. QED and the Call Centre were aware of it and the chair was taken to GEC Marconi in Edinburgh for testing. It failed emissions tests and, therefore, could not be CE marked. GEC Marconi offered welcome advice on how to modify the chair, but to comply with EU regulations, a risk-analysis report had to be produced. In the case of the Smart Chair because, by definition, the user is more dependant on it, there are greater safety issues to be addressed.

All the while, QED was in a grave financial position. The Smart Chair could not be sold, much to the frustration of those who had ordered one.

And while QED fought to solve its problems, the matter of making the chair legal was not a major priority. A German manufacturer expressed interest in buying QED, but after three months of negotiations, it pulled out. Eventually, QED was forced into liquidation, owing the Call Centre a five-figure sum which, coupled with the £12,000 put in by the university, made Nisbet realise that, despite the chair's worthiness, it might not be

'The Smart Chair is not a mobile robot - it is designed to maximise users' skills'

worth pursuing if it wasn't going to be economically viable.

Academics are often criticised for not getting the results of their research into commercial production, but Nisbet says that the chair could not be allowed to go on draining the university's finances. He has stopped drawing the portion of his salary that came from the Smart Chair earnings and any work he does on it now is carried

out in his own time. He approached manufacturers who had expressed an interest in the chair, but to no avail. Then the centre became involved with Swedish and Greek academics to bid for EU funding. Nisbet and a colleague travelled to Brussels to meet a committee, and left feeling that the project was in the bag. There were quibbles, but nothing they felt that couldn't be addressed.

The reasons for the bid being turned down included: "Although the concept of modularity is good, the innovative content of this project is somewhat doubtful because the functionalities are almost all available," and "some questions remain about the potential market, since there is no marketing strategy defined."

Nisbet counters this by saying that, yes, the Smart Wheelchair does already exist, but the aim of that EU project was to transfer the results of research to the marketplace, which is what the Call Centre is trying to do. As to the chair's market potential, one of the partners in the project was Control Dynamics, which manufactures about 50 per cent of the electronics for wheelchairs worldwide.

That EU ruling might have spelled the end of the Smart Chair, were it not for Smile Rehab, a new company in Newbury, Berkshire, formed by Roger

Dakin and a business partner. He had worked with QED and, when it folded, he says that he simply could not give up on the project. Smile Rehab has bought out QED's products, and Dakin is keen to get the Smart Chair back on to the market. The chair will soon be going back to GEC Marconi to be retested and the necessary documentation will be produced.

Dakin says the first priority is to fill the orders of those left on QED's books. Both he and Nisbet have plans to develop the chair and to take advantage of new technology, which would allow the company to sell sets of components rather than a complete chair, which costs about £7,000.

"I couldn't bear to see [the chair] not go forward," Dakin says. They need to sell only 10 or so chairs a year to make it viable. There are orders on the books, including a potential customer from the Royal Blind School in Edinburgh. After just half a day, the pupil had grasped the mechanics of the process and the school is so convinced of the benefits that it is already raising funds to buy the boy a chair. Nisbet says there are greater safety issues to be resolved, but if he and Smile Rehab are successful, then the chair will generate enough income to allow them to focus on such individual needs.

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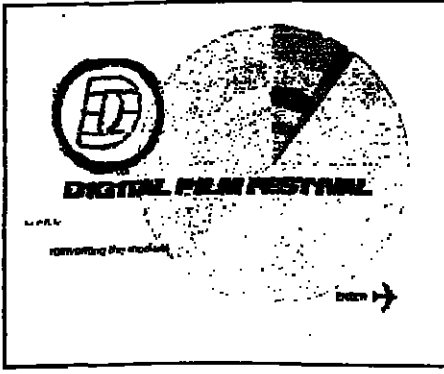
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Bugs Bunny Boulevard, Chick Flick Street, and Film Noir Terrace are among the desirable addresses at this Warner's site, which is handing out 200Mb of free web space for fans to create their own "unofficial" tributes to, among others, *You've Got Mail*, *Depeche Mode*, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and *Looney Tunes*. Artwork and film stills are made available for all-comers, albeit under the avuncular eye of the copyright holder, and "community producers" are being recruited to help organise the neighbourhood. The resulting home pages are basic to say the least, and there are no controversies as yet about studio intervention.

Sony Entertainment Robot
www.sony.co.jp/soi/robot
Furry meets Robocop at this Sony Japan site. Shiny and segmented, but convincingly multi-like, or cat-like, or monkey-like depending on your preference, this is no virtual creature. It is "a new genre of pet for those who have always wanted their personal robot pal". Although still in development, this little chap is already more versatile than its flesh-and-blood equivalent - for one thing you can rip off the hind legs and replace them with wheels, something organic pets normally resent. Sony offers lots of detail about interchangeable software and "Open R Architecture" and, like any proud parent, an endless series of QuickTime movies of its baby learning to walk.

D.FILM - Digital Film Festival
www.dfilm.com
Francis Coppola is quoted here, asserting that "one day a little girl in Ohio is going to be the new Mozart and make a beautiful film with her father's camcorder". The new breed of film-makers at this fascinating site just might bring it off. D.Film campaigns for microbudget moviemaking for all, now possible thanks to newly affordable software and computer power once restricted to large-scale features. For the download-patient, QuickTime clips display a low-cost ethic carried to extremes: *Buddha Bar*, for instance, was shot on a disposable cardboard still camera before being processed. There is a travelling festival (in Berlin last week) and also a plan for online distribution of movies via cable modem.

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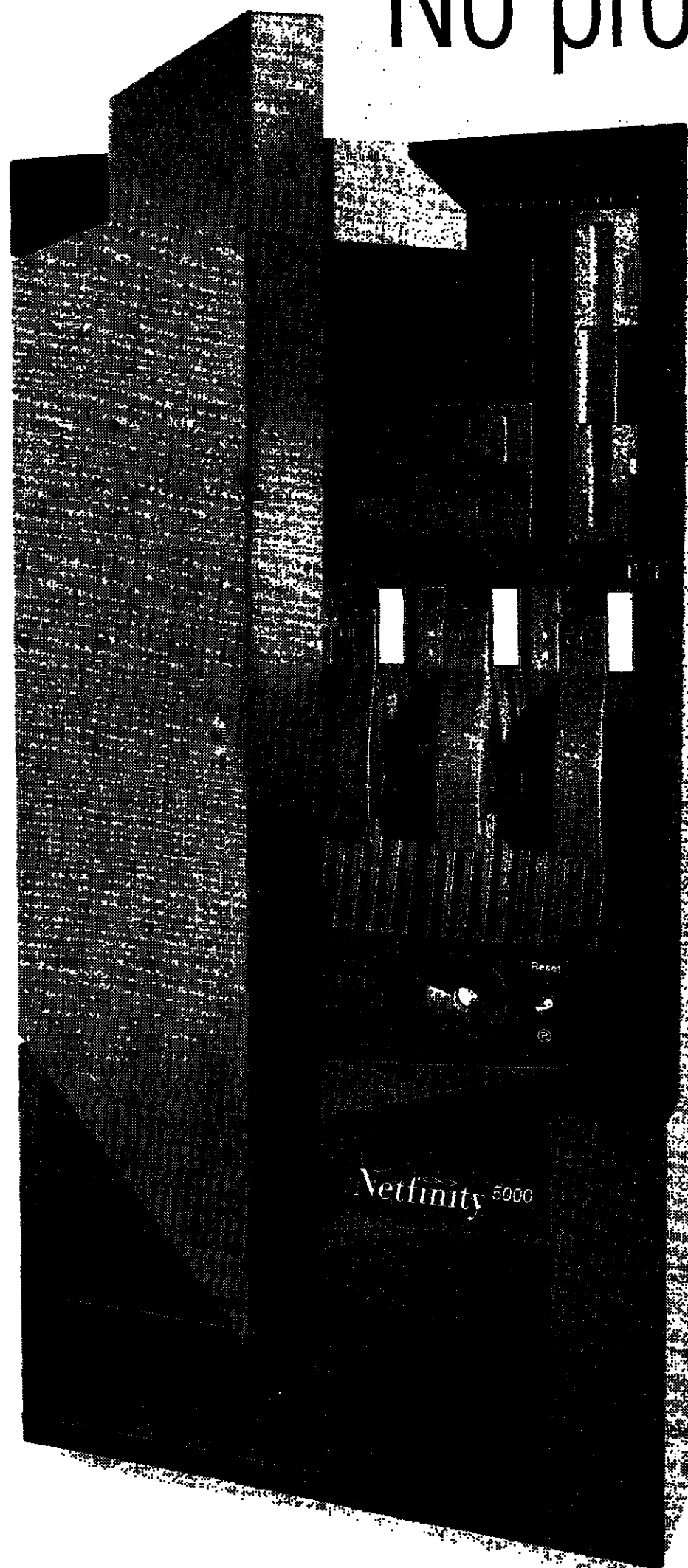


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هكذا من العمل

MY TECHNOLOGY

Perfect for researching the life of Ally McBeal

The Internet was a constant companion to Amanda Foreman during the five years that she was writing her Whitbread Award-winning biography

As a history student at Oxford, we were taught how to use the Internet. We weren't considering how reliable the Internet is as a historical source because the Internet is about reliability of access not of information. And it is more useful for modern research rather than for historical research, which requires primary sources. There are these mad websites proclaiming the end of the world. I just use it as a search engine and an information depository.

It's a particular kind of source that is very good for seeking out secondary sources — books, articles, pamphlets, periodicals. But unless everything is scanned into the computer it is never going to take over. The Internet won't cut down history into a digestible chunk. History is about uncovering the past and if it is on a computer then it has already been uncovered.

What is especially interesting and helpful to my historical research is the Encarta CD-Rom encyclopedia link to the Microsoft search engine. I cannot over-emphasise just how useful it is to me. For example, if I was searching on the Houses of Parliament, I get the Encarta entry and links to other sites. What I have is a potted history at a glance.

More valuable as a historical source is Microsoft's own collection of periodicals. This type of collection is why the Internet is such an invaluable research tool, a marvellous depository of secondary sources. Even the British Library is online. It is a shame that you can't read books online quite yet, but it means I can search book availability and can refer to it easily and quickly when compiling a bibliog-



Amanda Foreman: 'The Net makes a huge difference in time and effort'

Tom Craig

raphy. The Internet does make a huge difference in time and effort.

The Internet was also a companion during the five years it took me to write the biography. All academics use the Internet like mad, perhaps something to do with sitting at a desk in front of a computer most of the time! After all, it's original use after it was set up by the military was in the academies.

I often use it for leisure-related information. This week I wanted to go to the theatre, and all I had to do was go to whats.on.com, look up "listings, reviews" and book the tickets. I have bookmarked various favourite sites, ranging from a *Star Wars* site which I like to check in on

regularly, to book and history sites.

The Internet can be very frustrating. It can be slow to download and still crashes occasionally, but there is nothing we can do about that, as yet. Also, I get lost on the Net. After all, working at home and writing a book, it is quite tempting to play — until I realise I have spent all morning searching the *Ally McBeal* website. And then I get so depressed! Clearly, I didn't want to work. However, if it wasn't the Net it would be something else. It could be television. At least when people come round you can't sit there staring at the computer screen.

It's a good messenger source, much easier than letters or the

phone. I often talk to university tutors around the world through e-mail, plus it means I can access public libraries. I guess I use it a couple of hours a day every day, and would say it's all pretty useful time, (except when checking up on what happened on *ER* last week). My next project is to go online banking. I work from home, so it makes sense for me, but I believe everyone will be living online in the next couple of years.

INTERVIEW BY JENNIFER RODGER

Amanda Foreman won the 1998 Whitbread Biography Award for 'Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire' (HarperCollins)

Patent case of paranoia

WEB DESIGN



JASON CRANFORD TEAGUE

ON 12 January, Microsoft was granted US Patent Number 5,860,073. This is hardly surprising, since most companies of Microsoft's size receive hundreds or even thousands of patents from the US government each year. However, this particular patent, entitled "Style sheets for publishing system(s)", covers "the use of style sheets in an electronic publishing system". Sound familiar?

The "inventors" listed in this patent claim to have developed a system where by "text, or other media such as graphics, is poured into the display region" at which time, style sheets — defined as "a collection of formatting information, such as fonts and tabs" — are applied. This patent seems to overlap concepts laid out in the World Wide Web Consortium's (www.w3c.org) specifications of Cascading Style Sheets (www.independent.co.uk/net/980407ne/story8.html) and the Extensible Style Language (XSL), in development at least since 1994.

So, what does this mean? It means that Microsoft can now claim as its intellectual property several of the key concepts that make Web browser technology possible. Theoretically, if you want to use these technologies — or any technology based on them — you will now need to sign a licensing agreement with Microsoft. Imagine a world where every website using CSS, DHTML, and XSL have to be Microsoft certified.

OK, it may never get that bad, we hope. It has been reported that Microsoft will offer "free and reciprocal" licensing agreements to anyone wishing to use "their" technology, adding that it is not even clear whether a licence will be necessary.

Even Netscape is "not terribly concerned about it at this point in time", and rightly so. A quick analysis of the patent shows that it has two major flaws, which the W3C and the Web Standards Project (www.wsp.com) have already

been quick to point out "the existence of prior art", referring to the fact that style sheets were proposed with the first Web browsers coming out of CERN laboratories in 1994. In fact, the concept of style sheets has been around since the Sixties when they were used for print publications. At best, Microsoft is a Johnny-come-lately to the concept. The W3C's own licensing insures that the standards developed under its banner are universally available and royalty free. Since the W3C first developed the concept of style sheets, its license should hold precedence. Microsoft had representatives on the committees that created these standards and their own patent makes reference to documents produced by the W3C regarding CSS, so it seems highly improbable that this patent would stand up to much scrutiny.

In fact, George Olsen of the WSP (www.independent.co.uk/net/980928ne/story7.html) questions whether the patent should have been granted in the first place, "because (there) are a number of prior examples of similar technology, including the original proposal for CSS". Not only that, but it is assumed that any organisation — Microsoft included — with representatives in the W3C will

detail any current or pending patents that might impact the W3C standards under consideration, something this patent most certainly did. Yet the first the W3C heard of the patent was on 4 February when knowledge of the patent was first made publicly available.

The question is not whether the patent will stand the test of time — most people I have talked to in the Web design community agree that it won't. The question is whether it should have ever even been applied for in the first place and what this patent says about Microsoft.

The best thing that I can say about this situation is that it simply betrays an extreme divergence between the philosophies of the Microsoft Corporation and the philosophies that have created and nourished the World Wide Web since its creation. The Web has always been based on free and open standards available to any party for use without the need of legal contracts or obligations. On the other hand, Microsoft is the ultimate libertarian corporation, which not only believes that every thing should be owned, but that every idea is a commodity and should be owned by somebody — that somebody preferably being Microsoft.

This patent simply reflects upon the paranoid temperament that Microsoft has at its very core. It was reported that Microsoft filed this patent to prevent others companies from forcing consumers into using proprietary software. Microsoft wants to make sure that you are protected from having to use proprietary software — that's a bit rich.

Microsoft should do the right thing. Turn its patent over to the W3C with no strings attached and allow the Web standards body to administer Web standards.

You can e-mail comments or queries to Jason at indy_webdesign@mindspring.com

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